

Soviets launch rocket for shuttle use

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has launched a new-generation rocket capable of putting reusable space shuttles into orbit, the official TASS news agency said Saturday. TASS said the rocket, code-named Energia (Energy), was launched from the Baikonur space centre in Soviet Central Asia at 1730 GMT on Friday. It said the launch had demonstrated the high reliability of the rocket, and described the flight as a major achievement which opened new prospects for the peaceful exploration of space. TASS said a mock-up satellite carried by the rocket had not been put into orbit as planned due to a failure of the satellite's on-board systems. But it said the rocket itself performed according to plan, adding: "The aims and objectives of the first launch have been fully met." TASS described Energia as a two-stage, multi-purpose launch vehicle designed with the help of military experts. It said it had a launch weight of 2,000 tonnes and was capable of putting payloads of more than 100 tonnes into orbit. The agency said the first stage of the rocket separated after the launch and landed in a pre-determined area inside Soviet territory.

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King sends good wishes to Norway

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to King Olav V of Norway congratulating him on the occasion of his country's Constitution Day. The King wished King Olav continuing good health and happiness and the Norwegian people further progress and prosperity.

Kuwait hopes to mend PLO-Egypt rift

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, mediating in a rift between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said Saturday misunderstanding between the two will soon be cleared. "The misunderstanding will end in the near future since good intentions are there," Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah told reporters on receipt of a letter on the issue from his Egyptian counterpart, Ahmad Ismat Meguid.

Cypriot court frees woman in gas threat case

NICOSIA (R) — A judge on Saturday freed a Cypriot woman held in connection with a blackmail threat to release deadly gas over Cyprus, saying she was not satisfied with police evidence against her. Thekla Androu Halpinia, 21, told Nicosia district court that police had made her sign a statement in Greek although she did not read the language well. In London, a magistrate remanded Mrs. Halpinia's sister, her sister's husband and his two brothers until Wednesday.

Gorbachev said to have 'reassured' Syria

KUWAIT (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has assured Syrian President Hafez Al Assad that the Soviet Union will not attend an international conference on the Middle East without Syria's participation, the newspaper Al Qabas reported Saturday. The assurances were "officially conveyed" to Mr. Assad during talks with Mr. Gorbachev in Moscow last month, said Al Qabas in a report attributed to reliable Arab sources in Paris.

Syria: U.S. is to blame for bad relations

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian state radio said Saturday the United States was to blame for poor U.S.-Syrian relations and would be responsible for their improvement, or further deterioration. The radio was commenting on a statement by U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman that Washington would not return its ambassador to Damascus until Syria meets certain conditions and stops backing "terrorism." Ambassador William Eagleston was recalled to Washington last summer following Britain's break in relations with Syria for its alleged involvement in "terrorism." Damascus denied the charge. "Washington is first and foremost responsible for the low level U.S.-Syrian relations have reached, and it is capable of improving or further deteriorating them," the radio said.

INSIDE

- U.S. plans \$500m jet deal with Saudi Arabia, page 2
- World Council of Churches seeks to dispel misconceptions over Mideast, page 3
- How to survive in a competitive world, page 4
- Mitterand honours his first love, page 5
- Coventry win F.A. Cup, page 6
- IMF approves \$325 million loan to Egypt, page 7
- New Fujian leader will outlaw Indian domination of government, page 8

Registered voters expected to exceed 1m by deadline today

Support increases for elections this year

By Rana Sabbagh and Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Voter registration for parliamentary elections reached a new level on Saturday, reaching 850,000 of the 1.2 million people eligible for voting, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Interior.

The figure is expected to reach nearly one million by the end of the deadline, which has been extended from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday evening.

The sharp rise in voter registration came amid reports of increasing support for new parliamentary elections in the Kingdom.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Joudah said Saturday that it was more likely than not that parliamentary

New York archbishop backs Peres

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The archbishop of New York said after talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Saturday that he would be willing to visit the Middle East to win support for an international peace conference.

Cardinal John O'Connor told reporters after the meeting that such a conference "would seem to be of great potential help to peace in the Middle East."

The cardinal said he had discussed the plan when he met Mr. Peres in occupied Jerusalem last January as part of his unofficial peace mission to the Middle East. "I was very pleased he was thinking along those lines," Archbishop O'Connor said. "I'm very glad he's pursuing his efforts."

The cardinal's trip, during which he arranged meetings with Mr. Peres and Israeli President Chaim Herzog in occupied Jerusalem, caused controversy because the Vatican does not recognise Israel.

Archbishop O'Connor said he would be willing to go to the

elections would be held before the end of the year.

"There is a strong possibility there will be elections," Dr. Joudah told the Jordan Times.

"If His Majesty the King does not extend Parliament's term by the end of September, elections would be inevitable," Dr. Joudah's statement of the government's view was echoed by other Cabinet members.

"As a government member," one minister said, "I feel there is



Dr. Sami Joudah

a definite need for a new Parliament. I am convinced all the government is in support of such a step," the minister, who asked not to be identified by name, said. However, he added, "unless

(Continued on page 3)

Middle East again to win support for an international peace conference if the Vatican agreed.

Mr. Peres, who is on a four-day trip to New York and Washington to win support for the conference, said he had "a very high regard for the cardinal's views."

Mr. Peres was due to meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz later Saturday in New York.

The proposal for a Middle East peace conference has threatened to bring down the coalition government of Mr. Peres' Labour Party and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc.

Mr. Peres told reporters after arriving in New York on Friday that he was not turning to American officials or Jewish leaders to strengthen his political position at home and was interested only in making a case for the peace conference.

"I didn't come to ask for any American intervention in Israeli politics," he said after addressing a luncheon of business executives in New York. "It's up to the United States to decide on the

peace process, not on Israeli politics."

Mr. Peres had a series of private meetings scheduled Saturday with leaders of various Jewish groups before an evening session with Mr. Shultz.

Mr. Peres planned to see Mr. Shultz again Sunday in Washington, and possibly again on Monday, Israeli officials said.

"I didn't come to recruit or ask for help. I didn't come to cause harm. Others have already done that," Mr. Peres told Israeli Television in New York on Friday.

Mr. Peres may have been referring to the current Washington visit of Yosef Ben Aharon, a Shamir aide.

In Washington, Mr. Ben Aharon met senior U.S. State Department officials on Friday in an attempt to persuade them the idea of an international peace conference was dead.

Mr. Peres failed on Wednesday to make good on threats to break up the 31-month-old coalition government and force early elections if his peace initiative was not endorsed by the cabinet.

Bonn denies blocking superpower missile deal

BONN (Agencies) — Defence Minister Manfred Woerner denied Saturday that West Germany was attaching new conditions to a prospective ban on shorter-range missiles from Europe but made clear he favoured keeping some of these missiles.

Mr. Woerner also said in an interview released by the Welt am Sonntag newspaper ahead of publication on Sunday that Britain had no more reached a decision on the issue than Bonn had.

In a surprise statement which caused much confusion in Bonn on Friday, Chancellor Helmut Kohl said a ban on shorter-range missiles would leave West Germany exposed to nuclear weapons in the very short range and therefore these too had to be included.

The chancellor's statement was made without consulting his coalition partner, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, whose liberal Free Democratic Party is campaigning for acceptance of the Soviet offer against fierce resistance from Dr. Kohl's conservatives.

Echoing clarifying remarks made on national television on Friday night by Dr. Kohl's top foreign policy adviser, Mr. Woerner said Bonn was not creating any linkage between a superpower missile accord and very short-range battlefield weapons.

"We want equal and if possible improved security through the reduction of weapons of all kinds. As for the shorter-range missiles, those between 500 and 1,000 kilometres, I am for a drastic reduction," he said. In a related development, the

U.S. State Department, in an apparent rebuff to Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, said Friday the United States was prepared to implement a proposed superpower pact on medium-range nuclear missiles that would allow the Soviet Union to retain SS-20 warheads in Asia.

Spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley also appeared to rule out a suggestion by U.S. officials at a NATO defence ministers meeting in Norway that Washington may be considered a change in its draft treaty introduced at Geneva to ban all medium-range missiles — from Asia as well as from Europe.

She declined a direct comment on Dr. Kohl's rejection of the Soviet offer.

"The United States has been consulting actively with the alliance on this subject and we will not make a decision until the consultation process has been concluded," she said.

"Whatever decision is reached, the United States remains fully committed to the NATO strategy of flexible response which requires U.S. conventional and nuclear weapons in Europe as well as U.S. strategic forces," she said.

NATO defence ministers meeting at Stavanger, Norway, have demanded that the Soviet Union remove all SS-20s from Asia as well as Europe as part of a superpower agreement.

Mr. Weinberger, who had pushed hard for that position, refused to tell a press conference there whether Washington would alter its draft treaty on medium-range missiles.

Total Israeli withdrawal should be first step towards Lebanese peace, official says

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first step towards settling the Lebanese problem should be a total Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory, coupled with the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978 and the restoration of Lebanese authority over all of Lebanon, a senior Lebanese official said Saturday.

Mr. Fuad Al Turk, secretary-general of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, also told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, in an interview that the Lebanese problem should be tackled separately from the Middle East problem. But he

said that Lebanon was willing to attend an international conference on the Middle East as called for by Jordan and other Arab states. He pointed out that while the subject of the Arab-Israeli conflict was dealt with by U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the Lebanese problem was tackled by Resolution 425.

Mr. Turk, who arrived here Friday on a three-day visit and was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday, said Syria was exerting tremendous efforts towards reconciling the various Lebanese

(Continued on page 3)

Gemayel reportedly threatening to resign

BEIRUT (AP) — President Amin Gemayel was reported Saturday to be threatening to resign because the nation's leaders are not cooperating with him in solving a 13-day-old cabinet crisis.

Mr. Gemayel, 45, has been under pressure from right-wing factions within his Christian community to accept the resignation of pro-Syrian Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

Syria has sought to persuade the resigning premier to rescind his decision.

"The president is undertaking a chain of contacts with various leaderships in a bid to get all to cooperate in resolving the impasse. Otherwise he will... resign," the Voice of Lebanon radio station said.

The radio, mouthpiece of Mr. Gemayel's Falange Party, said the president "believes the crisis is far bigger than accepting or rejecting the premier's resignation."

"Such an acceptance or rejection

does not help to alter any of the realities of the real crisis, which concerns the nation's very existence."

The independent daily An Nahar said Mr. Gemayel was "on the verge of a historic decision to bow out."

The prestigious daily quoted unidentified sources close to the president as saying he would "announce his resignation in an address to the nation, listing his latest efforts to salvage whatever could be salvaged."

Presidential spokesman declined to comment on the report. Independent observers say they believe the report was a test balloon deliberately leaked by presidential aides.

Mr. Gemayel had frequently rejected calls to step down from his civil-war opponents.

"There is no way I will quit before the end of my term, unless I'm dead before that," Mr. Gemayel told an interviewer early last year, when rival factional leaders were demanding his



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan confers with Lebanese Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Fuad Al Turk on Saturday (Petra photo)

prompt resignation.

Mr. Gemayel's six-year term expires Sept. 23, 1988.

Saturday's report followed a campaign by Christian politicians and militia commanders aimed at pressuring Mr. Gemayel to accept Mr. Karami's resignation and form a new cabinet.

According to the Lebanese constitution the president has the sole authority to appoint and dismiss prime ministers. Also according to the constitution, resigning premiers should remain in office in a caretaker capacity until a new head of government is appointed.

"We shall keep up the pressure without letup," said Samir Geagea, commander of the "Lebanese Forces," a mainstream Christian militia.

"We reject Karami's return and believe that the president is hesitant in accepting the resignation because of Syria," Mr. Geagea said in an interview published Saturday by the "Lebanese Forces" magazine Al Massira.

Mr. Karami, 66, announced his resignation May 4, citing the failure of his half-Christian, half-Muslim 10-man cabinet to cope with an economic crisis caused by 12 years of civil war.

Inflation has soared to 200 per cent a year and unemployment to 20 per cent of the work force.

Bombers toss dynamites in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Police said unidentified bombers in a speeding Mercedes-Benz tossed three dynamite sticks that exploded in residential districts of west Beirut, on Saturday, causing no casualties or damage.

This brought to 104 the total of such attacks since Syria deployed 7,500 troops in west Beirut to end a three-year reign of feuding militias.

No group has claimed responsibility for any of these attacks, which appear aimed at discrediting Syria's law-enforcement effort.

Klibi predicts summit before end of this year

TUNIS (R) — The head of the Arab League predicted in an interview on Saturday that a long-delayed Arab summit would be held before the end of the year.

Secretary-General Chadli Klibi said that three problems preventing a summit had been successfully tackled.

These were divisions in Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) ranks, implementation of decisions of the last summit held in Fez, Morocco, in 1982, and attitudes towards the Iran-Iraq war.

"These three major difficulties having been — or in the process of being — smoothed over, one can now state that, barring unforeseeable events, the 13th ordinary summit will be held before the end of the current year," Mr. Klibi told the pro-government daily La Presse.

The next summit is due to be held in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Klibi said last month's Algiers session of the Palestine National Council had reunified PLO ranks.

On implementation of Fez summit resolutions on the Palestinian problem, he said Arab states now unanimously accepted the idea of a Middle East peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, with the PLO participating in its own right.

On the Iran-Iraq war, he said that an April meeting of Arab League foreign ministers in Tunis unanimously adopted a resolution on the conflict.

The Tunis resolution supported the Iraqi stand in the Gulf war and called on Iran to respond positively to calls for peaceful negotiations to settle the conflict. For the first time, Syria and Libya joined the rest of the Arab League members in endorsing such a resolution.

Iraq urges Arab states to cut ties with Iran

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq urged other Arab states on Saturday to follow Egypt in severing all relations with Iran.

"All Iran diplomatic missions in Arab countries in particular and Islamic and foreign states in general are nothing but nests that interfere in the internal affairs of those states..." Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said.

Egypt, which did not have formal relations with Iran, said on Thursday it was closing the Iranian interests section at the Swiss embassy in Cairo and recalling its sole diplomat in Tehran because the mission had committed "actions incompatible with diplomatic protocols."

Security sources in Cairo told Reuters an investigation showed that Tehran had financed an underground Muslim extremist group which planned to murder Egyptian officials. They said 37 members of the group had been arrested.

Mr. Aziz, in a statement to the Iraqi News Agency (INA), described Egypt's decision to break all ties with Tehran as "correct and brave."

He called on all Arab states, "which were and still are suffering from violations by the Iranian diplomatic missions of the diplomatic norms," to study the Egyptian example.

"If firm measures were taken from the beginning towards the flagrant activities of Iranian diplomats, that would have had an effect against the aggressive and expansionist policy of the Iranian regime against Iraq and other Arab states," he said.

Meanwhile, Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Ibn Alawi Abdullah arrived in Tehran on Saturday seeking to expand contacts between Gulf Arab states and Iran amid increasing Iranian threats to Gulf shipping.

Trans-official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Mr. Ibn Alawi was met at Tehran airport by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Chirac winds up Moscow visit on sour note

MOSCOW (R) — French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac wound up three days of talks in Moscow on a sour note on Saturday as a Soviet official renewed attacks on France's defence and human rights policies.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov poured scorn on Mr. Chirac's raising humanitarian cases with the Kremlin and he said Moscow's hopes of a change of heart by France on disarmament had been dashed.

Gerasimov gave a briefing after Mr. Chirac's final news conference, sitting in the chair just vacated by the prime minister and saying he would show "the other side of the coin."

In his Moscow press conference on Saturday, Mr. Chirac reiterated his country's support for the idea of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

The prime minister said his talks with Soviet leaders covered various Middle East issues and he exchanged views with them on the Iran-Iraq war. He said Paris and Moscow shared identical views on the Gulf war and agreed on the need for a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

Referring to Mr. Chirac's decision to raise a series of humanitarian cases with Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, the spokesman said:

"I do not think these individual cases are so important. They are brought out to nourish the anti-Sovietism required to justify France's military build-up."

Gerasimov said one third of the people named on such lists as refused permission to emigrate had no intention of leaving the country anyway.

Mr. Chirac's spokesman, Denis Baudouin, took a seat among the reporters after the prime minister left and intervened on three occasions to give the French view.

Mr. Chirac gave a more optimistic assessment, saying that the two countries had agreed on ways to boost trade and cultural exchanges despite their differences on disarmament.

Austrian politician accuses U.S. of cover-up

VIENNA (R) — A senior Austrian politician on Saturday described a Vienna visit by U.S. Justice Department officials as an attempt to cover a lack of proof that President Kurt Waldheim was involved in Nazi war crimes.

Michael Graff, secretary-general of the Austrian People's Party (OEPV), said it was an affront that the Americans produced no documents whatsoever in a meeting on Friday with Austrian Justice Ministry officials.

"It has been established that there isn't a shadow of proof against President Kurt Waldheim," Mr. Graff said. "The whole business was an act of political arbitrariness."

Mr. Graff, one of Dr. Waldheim's stoutest defenders, told a

news conference that the team's only aim had been "to disguise the complete lack of real documentary evidence."

The U.S. delegation, led by Deputy Assistant Attorney-General Mark Richard, gave an oral explanation of the department's reason for putting Dr. Waldheim on its "watch list" barring him from entering the United States.

Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock had asked for Washington to provide documentary evidence for its decision, which is based on suspicions about Dr. Waldheim's war record with Hitler's army in the Balkans.

Justice Minister Egmont Foregger said before Friday's meeting

that he assumed the officials would present such documents.

Mr. Graff said next Tuesday's cabinet meeting would discuss how the government, a coalition of Socialists and the OEPV, would react to the Americans' failure to produce documents. A protest note was a possibility, he added.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky is due to leave for a visit to the United States immediately after the cabinet meeting, a trip certain to be dominated by the Waldheim affair.

Former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky also spoke out on Dr. Waldheim, saying the only hope of ending the affair was for the former United Nations secretary-general to take the initiative.

U.S. plans \$500m jet deal with Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House will notify Congress next week it intends to sell 12 to 15 F15 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia in a move certain to touch off heated debate, officials have said.

Congress, which has the authority to veto the \$500-million purchase, is likely to take a close look at the plan in light of this week's revelations of secret Saudi funding for contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Although the Saudis have denied it, some members of the congressional investigating committee have put Saudi contributions to the contra at \$32.5 million in 1984 and 1985.

Israel's supporters, meanwhile, are expected to challenge the deal as posing a potential military danger.

The sources, who demanded anonymity, said the planes — a dozen to 15, depending on ultimate production costs — would be kept in the United States and provided to the kingdom only to replace jets lost in mishaps.

After bitter debate in Congress, the administration of President Jimmy Carter in 1978 won approval for the sale of 62 jets to the Saudis. Four or five planes

have since been lost in accidents, and the United States wants to keep the level up to 60, an official said.

Congress was to have been notified this week. But the plan was "short-circuited" by the congressional hearings on the Iran-contra affair, the sources said.

Saudi aid to the contra came at a time when Congress had prohibited U.S. military assistance to the rebels. President Ronald Reagan and former National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane had denied soliciting the contra aid from the Saudi government.

In that period, the administration shipped 400 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia and also said it was considering a \$12-billion arms sale to the kingdom.

While Congress was unaware of the secret contra aid, opponents threatened to reject the purchases — and with enough votes to override a Reagan veto.

He then scaled down the deal, but the Saudis withdrew the entire package.

The new request includes both F15C and F15D jets, which are produced by McDonnell Douglas company.

McDonnell Douglas is due to end production of both types of airplanes in May 1988. It will turn out the more potent F15E, which an official described as a "strike aircraft" that the administration would not sell to the Saudis and Congress would not approve.

The official estimated it would take three years to produce the first group of four or five — or more if other existing planes are lost — would be sent to Saudi Arabia, while the others would be kept in the United States to be supplied as needed.

Reports of the deal surfaced as Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres arrived in the United States. He is expected to meet twice with Secretary of State George Shultz to discuss plans for an international conference on Middle East peace. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has rejected the idea of a conference, and the issue has deeply divided Israel's coalition government.

ADC protests against U.S. film Ishtar

WASHINGTON (R) — Arab-American leaders have protested against Ishtar, a \$40 million comedy film, because of scenes they said mock Arabs and Muslims.

"The dehumanisation of any person because of his national origin or religion allows for the dehumanisation and vilification of all," Abdeen Jabara, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), told a news conference.

The movie, filmed in Morocco and released nationwide Friday by Columbia Pictures, stars Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman as two down-trodden songwriters who travel across the Moroccan desert with a blind camel.

They stumble onto a U.S.-sponsored revolution in the fictitious country of Ishtar.

ADC officials said anti-Arab sentiments surfaced when Isabelle Adjani, an actress who plays an Arab, comments to the two songwriters, "Ours is an ancient and devious world."

Later in the film, Beatty urges Hoffman to "just go down there and act like an Arab."

Jabara said the comments predated Arabs and their culture simplistically and demonstrated insensitive attitudes to Arabs on the part of the U.S. entertainment industry.

ADC officials also said they were offended by the movie's closing song, "I look to Mecca," in which the two stars sing about a romantic interlude under a tree in Mecca, the holiest of cities in Islam.

"Muslims go there for sacred pilgrimage," Faris Bounhafa, an ADC official, said. "Contrary to the song's message, Mecca is not Saudi Arabia's answer to Club Med."

Liberty survivors to hold 20th reunion on June 5-6

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The survivors of the U.S.S. Liberty — those who lived through the Israeli attack on their ship in 1967 — are having a twentieth anniversary reunion in Washington D.C., on June 5 and 6 this year, a report by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has said.

"They (the survivors) seem to be a forgotten group of people, abandoned by even the U.S. government, denounced by the Israelis, ignored by the press, and unable to achieve any kind of satisfaction for the great injury done to them and to their shipmates by the Israelis," the report said.

Israel set for period of political horse-trading

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Israel faces a period of old-fashioned political bartering, to the benefit apparently of Jewish religious zealots, as Foreign Minister Shimon Peres tries to force an early general election.

Peres, the Labour Party leader, called for elections this week after the national unity government headed by his right-wing Likud rival, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, failed to accept his proposals for a Middle East peace conference.

Under Israeli law, Peres needs to muster a 61-seat absolute majority to dissolve the 120-member Knesset (parliament), elected by strict proportional representation.

Peres claims to have 59 votes already, but many political commentators reckon he has fewer. If Peres is unable to assemble a majority, then Shamir could remain at the helm until elections scheduled in November 1988.

Labour itself has only 40 seats, forcing it to seek the backing of an array of small leftist and religious parties, often with conflicting interests, to build a majority.

Since the leftist parties support Peres' peace drive, the key swing votes appear to lie with three religious factions — the National Religious Party (NRP, four

seats), the Sephardi Torah Guardians (SHAS, four seats) and Agudat Israel (two).

Electoral arithmetic confers disproportionate power upon these parties, enabling them to bargain for ministerial posts, money for their educational institutions and tougher laws to enforce public observance of Jewish Biblical laws.

"The stakes are high — cabinet seats, millions for Yeshivot (religious seminaries), concessions on the 'who-is-a-Jew' issue, more religious observance laws," a Labour official said.

Non-religious Jews complain religious parties and institutions have grown fat over the years by holding the major parties to ransom in parliament. But efforts at electoral reform have foundered because both Labour and Likud know they may need the rabbis' votes next time.

The NRP, the most moderate of the religious parties, was for nearly 30 years a trusty coalition party of Labour.

It switched sides in 1977, under the influence of militant Jewish settlers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, helping Likud to power for the first time. Its leader, Ze'evulun Hammer, holds the Religious Affairs Ministry.

Political sources say the NRP's opposition to a Middle East peace conference makes it an

unlikely candidate to join Peres now, although surprises cannot be ruled out.

SHAS, a relatively new party representing ultra-orthodox Jews mainly of North African and Middle Eastern origin, is at the centre of the present horse-trading.

Its four votes could give Peres his majority and its party leader, Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, nicknamed by critics the "Ayatollah of Israel" — has recently spoken in favour of a peace conference.

But SHAS internal politics are not that simple. A council of Torah sages, learned rabbis who define party policy by reference to the old testament, will have to decide on the rival Labour and Likud bids for the party's support.

Peretz resigned as interior minister in January rather than obey a supreme court order to register as a Jew in a new immigrant converted to Judaism by a U.S. reform rabbi. Peretz said the woman's conversion was not in accordance with ritual law.

The religious parties are threatening to submit for a Knesset vote next week restrictive legislation defining who is a Jew, to test the sincerity of their suitors.

Agudat Israel, representing fundamentalist Jews of East European origin, can hardly demand less than SHAS, which has been encroaching on its electro-

rate.

Political analysts say Peres' dilemma is that if he appeases the Jewish fundamentalists, he risks alienating the secularist left, whose votes are also vital to him.

Political sources say the foreign minister should be able to count on support from the Socialist Mapam Party (six seats), the libertarian Civil Rights Movement (four seats) and the Moscow-line Hadash Communist Party (four seats).

But he appears to have the votes of only two of the three centrist Shmini Party deputies and cannot be sure of both votes of the far-left Progressive List for Peace.

Likud sources say their party has "bought" the vote of Amnon Abuhassara, the only representative of the no-defence Tami Party, by promising him a safe Knesset seat at the next election.

On the right, the ultra-nationalist Tehiya Party seems certain to back Shamir against an international conference, even though they would probably gain seats in an early election.

That leaves the solitary figure of anti-Arab Rabbi Meir Kahane, whose far-right Kach Party is regarded by both Labour and Likud as close to fascist. Neither major party could be seen negotiating with Kahane, but he seems likely to favour Likud rather than Labour for ideological reasons.

U.S. seeks arms embargo to end Gulf war

NEW YORK (USIA) — The United States is willing to work with other governments to impose an arms embargo as a means to end the Iran-Iraq war, says a top U.S. official.

National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci said that the United States is "working actively in the U.N. Security Council to build agreement on a resolution that would impose a mandatory arms embargo on the party not ready to accept a ceasefire, withdraw to international boundaries, and negotiate a settlement" in the six-and-a-half year Gulf war.

The Security Council has passed several resolutions calling on both countries to observe an immediate ceasefire and submit to mediation, but the calls have been repeatedly rejected by Iran.

Just hours before Mr. Carlucci discussed the situation in the Gulf, in a speech to the annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee, the Security Council issued a presidential statement expressing deep dismay over the confirmation that chemical weapons continue to be used in the region and once again asking Iran and Iraq to accept Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's offer to mediate an end to the fighting.

Mr. Carlucci also said that U.S. arms sales to Iran was "an aberration" and the Reagan administration has "reinstated our active opposition to the supply of arms to that country."

The United States is working with friendly Gulf states, he said, to deter both Iranian expansion

of the war and threats against other states, freedom of navigation and the free flow of oil, as well as enhancing its naval presence in the area and offering to protect Kuwaiti tankers.

Mr. Carlucci said that talks to determine the feasibility of holding an international peace conference on the Middle East has brought "significant progress," but at this point the outcome is still uncertain.

The effort will continue, he said, "because an opportunity to move closer to the reality of peace might be lost otherwise."

"We know also and appreciate how any such effort may trigger debate — in Israel, in Arab states, in the United States," he said, adding that Washington will not take sides in the current internal political struggle in Israel that has resulted from the disagreement over the merits of a conference.

The United States is "determined to take advantage of important psychological changes in the region — changes reflected in the almost routine way in which the Arab World as a whole responded" to meetings between Israeli Foreign Minister Peres and Moroccan King Hassan and between Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Mr. Carlucci said.

The United States has been exploring whether it is possible to structure an international conference that would lead to direct, bilateral negotiations and yet not introduce further disruptive elements into the region or impose

views upon the parties, he said. Mr. Carlucci also questioned the Soviet Union's intentions in the Middle East and the role the Soviets could play in the peace conference.

Soviet support for the conference has been "disturbingly devoid of details, (but) is designed to convey a commitment to peace, highlight apparent identity of views with countries like Egypt and Jordan and appeal to Israel," he said.

"If we were convinced the Soviets were seriously committed to peace in the region, there would be no interest in excluding them. Then they would have something useful to contribute, but that is something they must demonstrate in deeds and not simply words," the presidential adviser said.

"With the Arab World, the Soviets are pursuing a propaganda track which stresses peace; an overt diplomatic track which stresses better relations with moderate, Western-oriented states; and a covert diplomatic track of reinforcing, radicalising and increasing their control over the PLO and maintaining leverage on Syria," he said.

While offering prospects for increased Jewish immigration to Israel and holding out the possibility of restoring diplomatic relations, the Soviet Union at the same time actively worked to ensure that after the Algiers meeting of the Palestinian National Council the PLO emerged more radical and rejectionist, he charged.

3 charged with attempted murder of 2 Britons in Cyprus

LIMASSOL, Cyprus (R) — Three Arabs were formally charged Saturday with the attempted murder of two Britons who were wounded in an ambush by gunmen in Cyprus on April 20.

Rashed Abdullah Salem, 24, Saleh Ali Al Hammad, 26, and Abdul Aziz Farhan Khasab, 34, were charged in Limassol district court when they appeared on remand.

A British army corporal and a teenage girl were wounded when their military vehicle was attacked by gunmen as they were travelling between two British bases in southern Cyprus.

The three men were charged with conspiracy to murder, possession and use of weapons, attempted murder and presenting false passports to Cypriot authorities.

Police said two of them had false Bahraini passports and the third had a false Saudi passport.

The judge set the trial date for June 16 and ordered the defendants to remain in police custody. They made no comment when the charges were read out.

About 10,000 British servicemen, civilians and dependents live at the British sovereign bases of Episkopi-Akrotiri in the west of Cyprus and Dhekelia in the east.

Turkish Cypriots start economic reforms

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriots, pampered for years by aid from Turkey, are tentatively implementing an economic reform programme intended to bolster their self-declared independence.

But it could involve sacrifices. The tiny territory's 160,000 people will have to face price rises and must learn to save money rather than spend it, Economy Minister Erdal Onurhan said.

"People should work harder," he said in an interview. "Ordinary people should not have the impression that the state will care for them in every respect. We are not a social state like Sweden."

Goaded by Turkey, which now provides more than half the budget and wants to reduce the bill, Turkish Cypriot leaders have begun work on the transition to a liberal economy free of many bureaucratic restrictions.

But bankers in the breakaway "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus," recognised only by Ankara, are sceptical about the reform package.

Austerity measures agreed with Turkey last year have yet to appear. Bankers and some officials said austerity was politically unacceptable and bureaucrats imposed restrictions on planned currency changes which made them unworkable.

Lack of investment capital would make it hard to divest the state of its role in a wide range of industries and would restrict the number of firms which could take advantage of new tourism industry incentives, they said.

With good beaches, tasty food and a fine climate, northern Cyprus has targeted tourism as best area to boost foreign exchange earnings, followed by banking and insurance, Mr. Onurhan said.

A law passed last month gave a series of incentives to tourism including low land rents, tax breaks, charter flight subsidies and cheap credits for projects ranging from hotel and leisure facilities to car hire operations, he said.

Bankers and officials agreed that an increase in tourists would have useful knock-on effects on other sectors, including agriculture and industry, and help to reduce big trade and balance of payments deficits.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş told Reuters: "The aim is to make us stand on our own feet... our aim is to pay more and more and have Turkish aid lessened from year to year."

Northern Cyprus receives a small amount of aid from unnamed Islamic countries but is heavily dependent on Turkey. The close economic ties, including a shared currency, means it also imports inflation.

Mr. Denktaş said European countries which complained that Northern Cyprus integrated its economy with Turkey had only themselves to blame for recognising the Greek Cypriot administration as the island's legitimate government. "We don't listen to them," he said.

Turkish Cypriots now receive good social benefits and an untaxed minimum wage of 90,000 lira (\$110) a month, twice the

taxed minimum wage of Turkey. Turkey freed the export of firm to north Cyprus but, in a parallel move, the Turkish Cypriots imposed a string of restrictions, including the requirement that all outflows must go via the Central Bank.

One bank manager said similar restrictions would be included in a new foreign exchange law and added: "It is worse than before. There has been no consultation with us. I am very pessimistic."

Wholesale and retail trade make up a major part of the economy, large numbers of small stores thriving on shopping trips by mainlanders and Turkish troops stationed in the north.

Radio-cassette players are a favourite item. A banker who asked to remain anonymous estimated that 10,000 a week go in Turkey and said he was finding the import of \$1.3 million worth of radio-cassettes for a client.

Otherwise the territory earns its living from clothing, including big exports of denim jeans to Europe and the United States, food products, notably citrus, and livestock, some of which goes to Islamic countries.

Mr. Onurhan said he estimated real per capita income at \$3,000 a year, compared to over 5,000 for Greek Cypriots, but believed the figure could reach \$10,000 in five years.

He defended his current estimate against the official figure of \$1,360 last year, noting that that included 160,000 people had 60,000 registered vehicles, 20,000 telephones and a television in virtually every home.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show	
21:00	News Summary	
21:05	Evening Show continued	
21:30	News Summary	
22:00	Evening Show continued	
22:30	News Summary	
23:00	News Summary	
23:30	News Summary	
24:00	Close Down	
BBC WORLD SERVICE	6:30, 7:30, 12:30 KHz	
07:00	Newsday 07:30 Cap Final	
07:45	Reflections 07:50 Financial	
08:00	World News 08:00	
08:30	News Summary 08:30	
08:45	Letter from America 08:50	
09:00	Newsday 09:30	
09:30	Ch. 10:00	
10:00	World News 10:00	
10:30	News Summary 10:30	
10:45	World News 10:45	
11:00	World News 11:00	
11:15	World News 11:15	
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18:00	World News 18:00	
18:15	World News 18:15	
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18:45	World News 18:45	
19:00	World News 19:00	

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 65122.
EXHIBITION	Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
PLAY	* The Amman Players present "The Importance of Being Earnest" at 9.00 p.m. May 16, 17 and at the Royal Cultural Centre.
CULTURAL CENTRES	Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267 American Centre - 64371 British Cultural Centre - 641529 French Cultural Centre - 6501478 German Cultural Centre - 63709 Goethe Institute - 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre - 642403 Spanish Cultural Centre - 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre - 63977 Haya Arts Centre - 665195 Hussain Youth City - 6671816 Y.W.C.A. - 641793 Amman Municipal Library - 664251 Univ. of Jordan Library - 843555
MUSEUMS	"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Museum, Jabbal Luwaidh. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Tel. 811295.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 523005, where it should always be verified.	06:20 Frankfurt (AF) 06:30 Damascus, Paris (AF) 06:30 Rome (AZ) 06:30 Larnaca, Berlin (IF) 06:30 Tripoli (LM) 06:30 Cairo (MS) 06:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF) 06:30 Jeddah (SV) 06:30 Kuwait (KU) 06:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 06:30 Cairo, Agaba (RJ) 06:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 06:30 Athens (RJ) 06:30 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ) 06:30 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ) 06:30 London, Geneva (RJ) 06:30 Paris, Geneva (RJ) 06:30 Madrid, Rome (RJ) 06:30 Baghdad (RJ)
DEPARTURES	ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) flights (Terminal 1)
07:45 Agaba (RJ) 07:45 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 07:45 Vienna, New York (RJ) 07:45 Athens (RJ) 07:45 Cairo (RJ) 07:45 Kuwait (RJ) 07:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 07:45 Cairo, Agaba (RJ) 07:45 Baghdad (RJ) 07:45 Athens (RJ) 07:45 Frankfurt (RJ) 07:45 London, Cairo (RJ)	07:45 Agaba (RJ) 07:45 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 07:45 Vienna, New York (RJ) 07:45 Athens (RJ) 07:45 Cairo (RJ) 07:45 Kuwait (RJ) 07:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 07:45 Cairo, Agaba (RJ) 07:45 Baghdad (RJ) 07:45 Athens (RJ) 07:45 Frankfurt (RJ) 07:45 London, Cairo (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	GENERAL
Amman Governorate 691228 Jordan Civil Defence 198, 199 Civil Defence 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Quesneville 70753 Civil Defence Deir Alla 2736 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 158 First aid 630341 Blood Bank 778365 Electric Power Co. 636314, 624815 Municipal water complaints 7712258 Queen Alia Int'l. Airport (08) 5330060	Jordan Television 7731119 Radio Jordan 7741119 Ministry of Tourism 62321 Hotel complaints 66642 Police complaints 66171 Telephone Information 66724 Jordan and Middle East calls 12 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11
HOSPITALS	NIGHT DUTY
Hassan Medical Centre 8138132 Khaldun Maternity, J. Amn. 642814 Al-Khalil Maternity, J. Amn. 642412 Jabal Amman Maternity 62342 Malha, J. Amman 636140 Palestine Hospital 664171 Shamsi Hospital 669131 University Hospital 6438456 Al-Mustashfi Hospital 6672279 The Islamic, Amman 6661231 Al-Ahli, Amman 667416 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777013 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126 Army, Amman 8916175 Queen Alia Hospital 6024000 Amal Hospital 674155	AMMAN: Dr. Muneer Ogish 898101 Dr. Adel Amman 898101 Dr. Arif Hawashneh 776765 Dr. Youssef Rashid 898101 Al-Salam Pharmacy 636230 Al-Salam Pharmacy 636230 First Pharmacy 661912 Himari Pharmacy 663376 Al-Farouq Pharmacy 773336 TAXIS: Al-Ahram taxi 66391 Venezia taxi 64494 Palestine taxi 67425 Shamsi taxi 66724 Malha taxi 64474 Shaymaa taxi 84157 Jordan taxi 62308 Amman taxi 84489 RENT: Dr. Ali Omar 77232 Sakoun pharmacy 77232 Al-Salam pharmacy 77232 ZARQA: Dr. Muneer Ogish 898101 Amman pharmacy 898101
MARKET PRICES	</

Jordan, Poland to sign agreement on health

WARSAW (Petra) — The health ministers of Jordan and Poland will today sign an agreement on cooperation in health affairs, including the exchange of experts in health. This was announced Saturday by the Polish government.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh continues his visit to Poland. Dr. Hamzeh made visits to two academies and was briefed on the medical educational system in Poland. He also discussed cooperation between the Jordan Medical Council and Polish medical associations and institutions.

Dr. Hamzeh is heading Jordan's delegation to the meeting of

the joint Jordanian-Polish health committee which is discussing means of promoting bilateral cooperation.

The Polish health minister delivered a speech welcoming Dr. Hamzeh Friday night, paying tribute to the strong relations between Jordan and Poland, and praising Jordan's development in health fields. Dr. Hamzeh replied with a speech underlining Jordan's interest in promoting bilateral relations and cooperation.

Dr. Hamzeh went to Poland from Geneva where he attended meetings of the World Health Assembly.

Queen inspects Aqaba trade training centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday inspected the programmes and activities of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation Centre in Aqaba, which was officially inaugurated by the Queen last February.

The Queen first visited the vocational training workshop where local women were training in the repair and maintenance of household electrical appliances and artificial flower design and arrangement.

A tour of the centre's kindergarten and nursery then followed, where the Queen inspected the facilities and methods in caring for children between the ages of 2

and four years, and infants aged between one month and 2 years.

Finally, in the centre's multi-purpose hall, the Queen attended a children's talent show which featured national chants and songs by students from the Model School, a choir from Dar Al Tifl, a dabke performance, as well as a poetry recital and an Arabic language reading demonstration.

The Queen was accompanied by the governor of Aqaba, the director general of the Aqaba Regional Authority, the director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and other officials.

Minister confers with ILO official on assembly

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaleel Al Haj Hassan conferred in Amman Saturday with Mr. Ghaleb Barakat, assistant director of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

They discussed subjects to be taken up by the ILO general assembly in the coming month, including a report by the ILO director general on the condition of Arab labourers in Israeli-held Arab territory. The ILO's com-

mittees will discuss a host of subjects, including social security for workers, construction workers' conditions, cooperation among ILO member states, and the ILO's 1988 and 1989 budgets.

Mr. Haj Hassan has been nominated to chair the coming ILO conference and the nomination has been endorsed. Following the meeting with the minister, Mr. Barakat met with his under secretary, Saleh Khasasneh.

Ruins of Iron Age town uncovered

AMMAN (Petra) — Excavations currently taking place at Tel Al-Sa'idiya near Deir Allah in the central Jordan Valley have revealed the existence of ruins of an ancient city dating back to the Iron Age.

The excavation teams, which comprise 23 experts from the British Museum for East Asia, headed by the museum's director, in cooperation with the Antiquities Department, have discovered ruins of old houses, streets and paths leading to a court.

Mr. Sa'ad Hadidi, inspector of Antiquities Department in Salt, said that the teams have found a

storage-pot in one of the cemeteries discovered at the site, in addition to a grave for a girl who was buried with all her bronze jewelry and her precious stone necklace.

They also found ruins of an ancient settlement dating back to the year 3,800 B.C. The settlement, from evidence gathered, was damaged badly by fire which engulfed it.

The studies undertaken at the site have also shown that the settlement was not surrounded by any walls, thus suggesting that the settlement's inhabitants were living in peace and stability.



Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi awards diplomas to 272 students who graduated from a 3-year training course for assistant nurses. The

graduation was held at the Palace of Culture on Saturday (Petra photo)

272 nursing students graduate; profession to be open to males

AMMAN (Petra) — A ceremony for the graduation of the 10th class of female students from nursing school was held at the Palace of Culture Saturday under the patronage of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. Mr. Rifai delegated Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi to attend the ceremony which saw the graduation of 272 female students who completed a three-year training course to become assistant nurses.

Dr. Ahmad Atwan, director of vocational training at the Ministry of Education, delivered a speech at the ceremony outlining the development of nursing education in Jordan since 1946. The Ministry of Education introduced courses for assistant nurses in 1974 to help provide hospitals and health centres with trained personnel that was lacking in the country, Dr. Atwan said.

At present, 22 schools run by the Ministry of Education in the Kingdom offer nursing training for female students, estimated to number 1,099. These schools employ 80 professional nurses to give training to the students, Dr. Atwan added.

He said that to date these schools have turned out 2,078 assistant nurses now employed in different public and private hospitals in the Kingdom.

Ministry of Education studies indicate that the country will need at least 11,000 assistant nurses from now until the year 1990. For this reason, the ministry will continue to open new branches to train female students in nursing, Dr. Atwan pointed out. He said that in the coming scholastic year the ministry plans to open 11 vocational schools, and these will also give courses in

nursing. In addition to opening nursing schools, he said, the ministry is bent on plans for improving the quality of the nursing profession and nursing services in the country. The ministry will also offer promising students a chance to continue their higher studies at Jordanian universities, and will offer them financial incentives to do so, Dr. Atwan noted.

Nursing to be open to males He said that the ministry has recently decided to open the profession to male students. This will be done in the coming scholastic year.

The minister later distributed diplomas to the graduates in the presence of ministry officials and relatives of the graduates.

Egyptian group in Jordan to clarify exchange reform

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from Egyptian banks is due here today on a two-day visit to Jordan during which its members will meet with the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the director of the Housing Bank, Mr. Zuhair Khouri.

The delegation will meet with representatives of the Egyptian community in Jordan on Monday to explain the new Egyptian foreign exchange system introduced on May 12.

The Egyptian banks launched a new mechanism aimed at attract-

ing more foreign currency into the official banking system. The banks started buying dollars and other foreign currencies at new rates set by a bankers' committee as part of a government authorised partial float of the exchange rate.

The Egyptian government said the measure, part of the package of reform linked to International Monetary Fund aid for Egypt's troubled economy, was a step toward a phased unification of the exchange system.

The visiting delegation will be led by Mahmoud Abdul Aziz Mohammad, member of the board of directors of the Federation of Egyptian Banks.

Jordan, Syria study plan for telecommunication links

DAMASCUS (Petra) — A joint Jordanian-Syrian committee has endorsed principles for finalising a regional study on telecommunications links between Amman, Damascus and Saudi Arabia. The study was made prior to practical measures for the implementation of the project.

The project provides for ensuring direct telephone and telex communications between the three countries in addition to helping Jordan and Saudi Arabia conduct communications with the outside world through Syria.

World church body seeks to dispel misconception about Mideast situation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation from the Geneva-based World Council of Churches (WCC) has been touring the Middle East, meeting with political and religious leaders to discuss the problems in the region.

The five member Middle East delegation, which includes for the first time in 18 years the secretary general of the WCC, Rev. Emilio Castro, has already visited Syria, Lebanon, before coming to Jordan. The WCC group plans to visit the occupied territories and Egypt.

Their tour, which began on May 7, will end on May 22, after which the facts gathered will be compiled into a report, and distributed to the WCC member churches. WCC is a fellowship of 310, mostly Christian orthodox, churches.

"The information we are gathering will be distributed to churches worldwide and will be shared with each country's political leaders," Rev. Castro told a press conference Saturday. He said he hopes that the facts would dispel previous notions about the issues in the region "and perhaps public opinion will press for a world conference."

"The WCC supports the convening of a United Nations sponsored peace conference," Rev. Castro stated.

Delegation meets Crown Prince

Also on Saturday the delegation met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and later with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, during the meeting, the Prince expressed concern over Israel's drive to bring about demographic change in the occupied territories, and over the deteriorating economic conditions in the West Bank, and Israel's aim to link the West Bank economy with its own.

Referring to Jordan's five-year

economic and social development plan in the West Bank, the Prince said it was aimed at enhancing the steadfastness of the Arab people and preserving their identity.

The delegation met later Saturday with Sheikh Khayyat and discussed conditions in the occupied Arab territories. Sheikh Khayyat talked about cooperation between Muslims and Christians in Jordan.

Both religions, he stressed, have been living in harmony; they enjoy equal rights and jointly take part in a national drive to expose Israel's violations of human rights and desecration of Christian and Islamic holy shrines in the occupied Arab land.

The minister also spoke about the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' role in protecting religious places in the Israeli held Arab territory.

The WCC maintains that Jerusalem is a holy city for the three monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam —

and any tendency to minimise Jerusalem's importance for any of these three religions should be opposed. Also, it supports U.N. Resolution 181 which provides that access and protection of the holy places be safeguarded.

The delegation will leave today for the West Bank, where the group expects to hold talks with President Theodore Herzog of Israel.

When asked if the Palestinian issue will be discussed, Rev. Castro said the scope of our visit, the total human situation in this region, will be discussed. He said he believes there is a need for "all parties to understand that the security of Israel will be guaranteed with the security of the Palestinian people."

The WCC favours self-determination for the Palestinians, Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 borders, and the recognition and security of the state of Israel.

Rev. Castro also said he thinks the tour will be effective and will have "moral and spiritual value."

The WCC is engaged in relief work throughout the world. "The important thing at the moment is diplomatic work and to build trust in order to have creative alternatives," concluded Rev. Castro.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday briefs a delegation from the World Council of Churches of Jordan's concerns over the occupied Arab territories and the 5-year development plan for the West Bank (Petra photo)

Nabataean art works to exhibit in England

LONDON (LPS) — An archaeological exhibition which provides insight into the rich, varied history of Jordan opens in June at Newcastle-Upon-Tyne in northeast England.

It traces the lifestyle of the caravan-trading Nabataean tribe who monopolised the trade route from the Yemen and the Far East prior to the Roman invasion in 106 AD.

The exhibition, called "Udhruh — Caravan City and Desert Oasis," presents the findings of extensive archaeological

excavations from 1980-85 at the town of Udhruh, in southern Jordan, by an international team of specialists from Britain, France, Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, West Germany, Jordan and the United States.

The team, led by British archaeologist, Mr. Alistair Killick, and his French wife, Marie, has painstakingly recreated the history of this part of Jordan.

Among the items on display is a large collection of exceptionally fine ceramics recovered from the only Nabataean kiln to be discovered in Jordan. The delicate egg-shell thin ceramics have been carefully restored from thousands of fragments, and in texture and quality more closely resemble porcelain than earthenware.

Particular items of interest in the exhibition include an ostrakon, or tile, which carries an extremely rare ink inscription, clay oven fragments and kiln lining, glass lamps and levantine marble.

The marble was used both for sculpture and for the internal decoration of buildings.

Voter registration closes today

(Continued from page 1)

there were unforeseen developments, elections definitely have to take place. He did not elaborate.

According to the constitution, the King is empowered to extend Parliament's term for one or two extra years. The current Parliament's mandate officially ends by mid-January, but an apparently growing government support for holding elections added momentum to voter registration and gave rise to public expectations.

By Saturday evening, nearly 850,000 Jordanians had registered their names at various voter registration centres throughout the Kingdom.

Ministry of Interior Under-Secretary Ahmad Al Aqqaleh said that the turnout was based on numbers obtained from the 700 registration centres by Saturday noon, four hours before closing time.

Amman Governorate, where nearly one third of the population lives, ranked first with 243,954 registered voters by mid-Saturday.

day, followed by Irbid Governorate with 218,721, Zarqa with 80,000, Balqa with 73,478, Karak with 49,879 and Mafrak with 35,905.

According to official statistics, 1.2 million out of Jordan's 2.8 million citizens living in the East Bank are eligible voters, who are above 19 years of age.

Some observers described the turnout of 850,000 — recorded over the past 13 days — as "a good percentage." The given turnout figures represent 71 per cent of the total 1.2 million potential voters.

Based on the outcome of the previous by-election, which was held in Jordan since 1984, the expected turnout at polling centres in a possible parliamentary election is estimated at 40 to 45 per cent of the registered voters.

Although they were not ready to provide accurate figures immediately, officials at the Department of Statistics said that the estimates were "very reasonable." Voter registration figures are considered high in view of the slow pace witnessed during the

first week of registration. The figure is expected to rise as citizens will have the chance to "complain" in the period between June 7 and June 13 if their names were missing from registration lists, copies of which would be displayed outside every registration centre.

Officials expected the registration number to come close to one million by closing time on Sunday. The deadline was extended to 6:30 p.m. from the previously scheduled 4:00 p.m.

Electioneering by hopeful candidates and their supporters showed a high level of effectiveness as it was cited by many as the main driving force behind voter registration. A recent survey by the Jordan Times indicated that most of the registration had been carried out by candidates and their supporters who had collected civil registration books from citizens for that purpose.

Labour unions, professional associations, governors, mayors, dignitaries and others took part in visible campaigns in favour of voter registration.

Mr. Turk said his meeting with Prince Hassan was distinguished. Noting Prince Hassan's reputation as a pioneer of science and thoughts, he said that the Prince had great interest in national and international issues, and had far-sightedness in regard to issues of development and economy and the interest of mankind in general.

Later on Saturday, Mr. Turk delivered a lecture on the Lebanese problem at the World Affairs Council in which he said that Lebanese reconciliation was not enough to reach an end to the 13-year-old war.

Lebanese official calls for total Israeli withdrawal

(Continued from page 1)

on the basis of justice, equality and equal-opportunity status for all Lebanese.

Petra said Prince Hassan, in his meeting with Mr. Turk, reaffirmed Jordan's stand in support of Lebanon's territorial integrity and independence. The Crown Prince also emphasised the need for all Lebanese to unite and work towards restoring security and bringing about an end to the civil strife in the country.

Mr. Turk, in his interview with Petra, indicated Arab states for not doing enough to end the Lebanese strife. He said while the 1982 Arab summit in Fez, Morocco, decided to grant \$2 billion to Lebanon's reconstruction and development, the country received

only \$400 million since donor Arab states wanted security restored in Lebanon before giving more aid. Mr. Turk said Lebanon believed that aid could bolster the government's authority and could speed up the achievement of a lasting solution to its problem.

Mr. Turk praised His Majesty King Hussein's continued efforts to help the Lebanese people and to end the conflict in Lebanon. He said the February 1987 meeting in Amman between the King and Lebanese President Amin Gemayel was an important step in efforts to restore peace in Lebanon.

Mr. Turk noted that efforts were currently under way to reunify Arab ranks and restore Arab solidarity and said Arab

unity and solidarity represented the only means to solve Arab problems.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Khudeir, Abu Odeh families

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday deputed Royal Court Secretary General Bassam Al Saket to offer the King's condolences to the Khudeir and Abu Odeh families for the passing away of Dr. Mohammad Kamal Mustafa Khudeir.

Crown Prince hosts iftar banquet

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday hosted an iftar banquet for a number of officers from the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Public Security Department and the Civil Defence Department. The banquet was held at the Al Hussein Youth City.

Lawzi meets Sudanese religious group

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Saturday received Sudanese religious leader Ahmad Abdul Rahman Al Mahdi and an accompanying delegation currently on a visit to Jordan. Mr. Lawzi also on Saturday received the Belgian ambassador in Amman, Guido Vansina. During the meeting, they reviewed existing cooperation between the two countries in various fields especially in the parliamentary field.

Jordan to attend UNDP meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is to take part in the meetings of the general assembly of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), scheduled to be held in Nairobi on June 8, according to a report in the local papers. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan will lead Jordan's delegation to the 11-day meetings. The Jordanian delegation will submit to the meeting a working paper on Jordan's activities in environmental conservation.

Cabinet endorses health plan amendment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday endorsed an amendment to the national health plan for Jordan. A statement issued at the end of the regular weekly session said that the cabinet endorsed a general budget for the Jordanian Ports Corporation and discussed subjects on its agenda and passed several decisions.

Qatanani meets Swedish general consul

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Ahmad Qatanani met in his office Saturday with the general consul of Sweden in Jerusalem. They discussed cooperation between the Swedish and Jordanian governments in financing the operations of Al Hussein Hospital in Beit Jala, and an Arab construction project in Jericho in the occupied West Bank.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

How to survive in a competitive world

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

ECONOMIC achievements and the quality of economic policies in Jordan, or elsewhere, could not be fairly judged by comparing the present situation with what it used to be in the past. The proper judgment should be based on comparison with the performance of other developing countries that achieved greater prosperity during the last three decades. It is not sufficient that the country is "advancing" while others are advancing faster. Such state of affairs would still leave us lagging behind, despite the fact that we are progressing.

Looking at the past is certainly very useful for the purposes of documentation and evaluation. But our focus should be on the future for the purposes of action, progress and success.

In this diverse world we find many countries suffering from deficit in their balance of payments, and only a few countries that enjoy surpluses such as Japan, West Germany and Taiwan, who are the subject of everybody's envy.

In terms of global statistics, the total sum of deficits far exceed surpluses. One of the reasons for this odd result is that imports are priced at cost, insurance, and freight basis (CIF) at the port of destination, while exports are valued at cost on board at the port of shipment (FOB). It does not include marine insurance and freight charges.

Insurance and sea or air freight are in effect imports and exports of services. Therefore, had it not been for the statistical discrepancies, intentional and otherwise, the total sum of deficit should be exactly equal the surplus. In other words, the surplus achieved by one country is, by definition, the deficit suffered by another country, or group of countries. Surplus and deficit are two sides of the same coin resulting from imbalances in the exchange of goods and services.

Based on this understanding, the balance of trade of one country could deteriorate only because another country exerted an extra effort, and applied certain policies which increased its exports, decreased its imports, or did both. Such an alteration must be translated into a corresponding increase in the imports of another country or into a reduction in its exports. The exports of one country being the imports of others.

This means that the balance of international payments resembles, in a way, the musical chairs game. If you beat someone to a chair, someone else would be denied that same chair. If you release your chair it will be occupied by another player who would move fast enough to fill the void.

In a zero-sum game, many countries are struggling in earnest to improve their competitiveness by enhancing their exports and

curtailing their imports.

The competitiveness of Jordan, the availability of markets for its products, and the extent of covering its own markets by foreign imports do not depend only on what we do within Jordan, but on what others do as well. That is why we should compare our performance to that of Turkey, Singapore, Taiwan, or Korea rather than compare it to what it was a decade or two ago.

If our exports are retreating, or if they are growing at a lower pace than what we desired and aimed at, it is not because of what we did, but because of what we did not, and because of what others did. Perhaps we should look into why Turkish agricultural products were able to expel our products from our traditional markets in the Arab Gulf states despite our proximity and favourable political and national relations. Our success in the game of musical chairs does not depend only on our speed in capturing an available chair, but on the difference between our speed and the speed of others aiming at the same chair. It is not sufficient that we are moving forward. The question is whether our movement is stronger and faster or weaker and slower than that of others. If we do not prevail, others will make more surpluses at the expense of our ever increasing deficits.

Starting somewhere

THE voter registration process for parliamentary elections comes to an end today, with as many as a million potential voters expected to register their names. This is indeed an achievement that all Jordanians should be proud of — not the least because it has been a long time since our people have been called upon to register for general elections and not the least because circumstances have not been exactly ideal for voter registration this time round.

Had it not been for strenuous and dedicated efforts by parliamentary hopefuls, and to public awareness campaigns waged by different organisations and the press, the turnout might have not been as good. In all fairness, though, the government has played its role in preparing for a clean and thorough voter registration process, despite all the shortcomings that have surrounded the process.

In talking about shortcomings, we mention loopholes in the new election law that allows for people to be registered anywhere, at centres outside and away from their places of work and residence and with which they have no attachment other than that their potential MP is running there. We also have to mention the fact that voter registration itself would have been unnecessary if our Civil Registration Department were more organised. With this in mind, we can only hope that in the general election after the impending one, citizens can go to polling stations in their precincts, find their name registered there and cast their vote on the spot on election day.

We can probably go on mentioning other shortcomings and difficulties connected with the registration process that ends today. But in the final analysis this pales in importance compared with the exercise in democracy whose start and progress we have been witnessing over the past two weeks.

What is really important is for our people to stand on the path of democracy and to continue from there. This, we trust, is what we have been doing over the past fourteen days, and what we will be doing over the next several months.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: National duty

THE first step towards practicing democracy is for citizens to have their names registered for voting in the coming parliamentary election. The last chance for citizens to exercise their right in registering for elections is Sunday, May 17, and it is incumbent on everyone to benefit from the chance given him or her in this democratic practice in the country. It is a national duty for all to take part in electing their representatives in parliament who hold the power in the process of law-making and legislative practices that affect every citizen in the Kingdom. Elected or being elected to parliament means practicing democratic rule and, therefore, citizens should not lose this opportunity and later brag about democracy. Voting in parliamentary election is the right of every person above 19 years of age, according to election law; and this means shouldering the responsibility in all matters related to decision-making and the enactment of laws. Democracy enables all people of a society to take part in shaping the future of their country and it is a national responsibility that should be undertaken by all people of the country.

Al Dustour: Murphy's statement

U.S. envoy to the Gulf region, Richard Murphy, yesterday issued statements that can be considered as a manifestation of Washington's continued backing for the Jewish state. His talk about U.S. attitude towards the idea of an international conference on the Middle East should be considered as further encouragement for the hawks in Israel's government and to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who continue to reject the conference idea. Murphy's statements once again display to the whole world Washington's total bias towards Israel, and his call on the Arabs to hold direct talks with the Israelis is merely echoing the policies of the Zionist leaders of Israel. These statements, coming in the eve of a visit to Washington by Shimon Peres, Israel's foreign minister, reflect clearly the support which the United States intends to show for his opponent, the prime minister, who has earlier warned the Americans to refrain from interfering in Israel's internal disputes. It goes without saying that such statements as those that Murphy made in his current tour in the Gulf region, have been instrumental in encouraging the Israelis to disregard United Nations resolutions and the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Sawt Al Shaab: King continues mission

KING Hussein's visit to Arab countries and his talks with Arab leaders serve as stages in his endeavours to bring about a united Arab front. The King is determined to restore solidarity among Arab states to enable them to confront the conspiracies of the Israeli enemy in the coming stage. A unified stand and a common action is required now in view of Israel's intransigence and persistence on aborting the peace process and also following all efforts at the international level to bring an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The King is spearheading efforts that totally contradict Israel's subversive policies and hostile attitudes towards peace. As the King pursues his relentless efforts for peace, the Israelis prepare for war, and its leaders and military officers continue to give statements about Israel's power to destroy any chance for peace. The Israeli leadership has succeeded in averting a serious rift by postponing any action with regard to the convening of an international conference. This leadership should not be allowed by the Arabs to succeed in wrecking peace or launch aggression on the Arab Nation.

By David Winner

The following article is reprinted from the London-based Jewish Chronicle

ISRAEL must give up the West Bank and Gaza if it wants to survive. That is the passionately-held new view of Professor Yehoshafat Harkabi, former head of Israeli military intelligence, expert on Arab attitudes and once one of Israel's most influential hawks.

He is currently on a sabbatical at St. Antony's College, Oxford, and has been taking the opportunity to speak to British Jews, addressing large audiences at meetings organised by the Zionist Federation (ZF) and the Institute of Jewish Affairs.

Professor Harkabi, who now describes himself as a "Machiavellian dove," argues that Israel must negotiate directly with the PLO. While a Palestinian state on the West Bank would pose security problems, he

says, holding on to the occupied territories would be much more dangerous.

The clinching argument for him is the demographic one. If Israel holds the West Bank, Arabs will soon outnumber Jews and Israel will face a dilemma. If it grants the Arabs political rights, they will achieve a majority in the Knesset. If it withholds political rights, the result will be an increasingly explosive "Belfastisation" of the country. Either way, Israel as a democratic Jewish state will be finished.

"I used to describe the Arab position as very harsh and the PLO as ugly," he says. "But there are changes in the Arab World as far as Israel is concerned. You don't negotiate because you're nice. You negotiate because you have to."

Professor (and reserve General) Harkabi's call for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue comes after spending most of his academic career warning the world about the "ferocity of Arab enmity" to-

wards Israel. As he wryly observes: "Most of the extremist positions in Israel are based on my writings."

He was the first important Israeli scholar to make a study of Arab political attitudes and translated the PLO's Palestine Covenant and other works into Hebrew.

Now he considers it his duty to educate Israeli and Jewish opinion to face new realities.

He speaks with passionate conviction and a rare sense of mission. At the ZF meeting, he turned on one of several sceptical questioners and said: "I beseech you, don't tell me the Arabs are bad! I can do that much better than you. The problem is: Where do we go from here?"

"The Palestinians are gifted people. They, too, have their grievances, sufferings and memories. We must see things from the point of view of our adversaries."

"We must not dehumanise



Professor Harkabi

them. The Palestinians are not subhuman. They consider they were treated unjustly. What you have to do is not to shout, 'we are the righteous,' but ask, 'how can we solve the problem?'"

Professor Harkabi concedes that few Israeli politicians yet share his view but says: "The parties are prisoners of the electorate. If attitudes change, policies will follow. I'm not alone

in Israel. You see in the recent opinion polls that the number of people who are ready to give up the West Bank is rising."

He was sharply critical of what he sees as unrealistic Israeli policies in his book, "The Bar Kochba syndrome" which attacked the tendency to glorify the leader of the revolt against the Romans.

"The Bar Kochba rebellion was the biggest catastrophe in Jewish history. About one million Jews perished. To declare war on Rome in those days was like declaring war on Russia, America and China together today. There was a lack of realistic thinking. We have to be aware of our limitations."

His latest book, not yet published in English, "Fateful decisions," which argues the need to talk to the PLO, sold out in Israel.

"In important Arab circles, there are people who understand that without a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, what awaits them and us will be disastrous,"

he says.

He makes a crucial distinction between political "grand designs" (or dreams) and actual policies. For Arab extremists, the dream of destroying Israel is still the policy, but an increasing number of moderates — and he includes the PLO leader, Mr. Yasser Arafat, in that category — have become more accommodating.

"As a result of their experience in war, there has been a separation between grand design and policy."

"If I take a dovish position, it is because of hawkish considerations. I have come to the conclusion that if we follow a moderate policy, we will be a lot better off. There is now a possibility for a settlement. If we wait, we shall miss it."

He has an answer for those who accuse him of being pessimistic. "I am an optimist. I see a possibility of a solution. The people who think we must forever live by our words are the pessimists."

Sri Lanka's Bandaranaike hopes for a political comeback

By Marilyn Odchimar
 Reuters

COLOMBO — The world's first woman prime minister, Sirima Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka, seems determined at 71 to fight her way back to power.

"If I had won the 1977 general elections, I would not have stayed so long in politics," she told Reuters in an interview.

"But I do not want to let the people down. I have to stick it out, fight back," she said.

Bandaranaike succeeded her husband, Solomon, as leader of the Freedom Party when he was assassinated in 1959.

She became the world's first woman prime minister the following year after a general election victory.

In July, the Freedom Party she still heads plans to mark a decade out of office with a renewed campaign to press for early parliamentary elections.

Bandaranaike is confident of victory, saying her party offers the only hope of a peaceful settlement to Sri Lanka's Tamil rebellion.

"We're sure to win. People are silent but very bitter. In the north, they say the government has more or less lost," she told Reuters.

The next general elections are scheduled for 1989, but Bandaranaike has challenged President Junius Jayewardene, who defeated her in 1977, to call an early poll.

Jayewardene, who introduced a presidential system in 1978, was elected to a new six-year term in October 1982. He won a referendum two months later to extend parliament for six years without an election, a move which drew protests from the opposition.

Early elections, Bandaranaike said, would test whether Jayewardene had a mandate for the provincial autonomy package he has offered as a solution to the rebellion by minority Tamils seeking an independent homeland in the north and east of the country.

Jayewardene has in return challenged Bandaranaike to reveal her own peace proposals.

"We have a solution. It's a different approach from what this government has offered. And the terrorists aren't angry at us as they are with the government," she said.

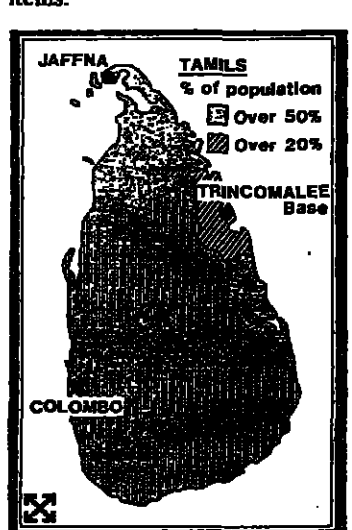
She said Appapillai Amirthalingam, the leader of a moderate Tamil group, told her last year he would prefer negotiating with her. "He said he can trust me,"

she said. Since 1983, ethnic violence between Tamil rebels and the Sinhalese majority has claimed more than 6,000 lives, disrupted the Sri Lankan economy and wrecked the once-flourishing tourist industry.

Bandaranaike's critics contend that one major cause of the rebellion was her administration's policy of making Sinhalese the official language.

Then why didn't the Tamils create trouble during my time?" she retorts. "There were no riots during my years in power."

Political analysts said Bandaranaike lost in 1977 because of economic policies which led to people queuing for basic food items.



"I made mistakes no doubt. But whatever I did, they were with all good intentions for my country," she said.

"I want to be remembered for the sacrifices I had to make to come into politics and for difficulties put in my way by political opponents," she said.

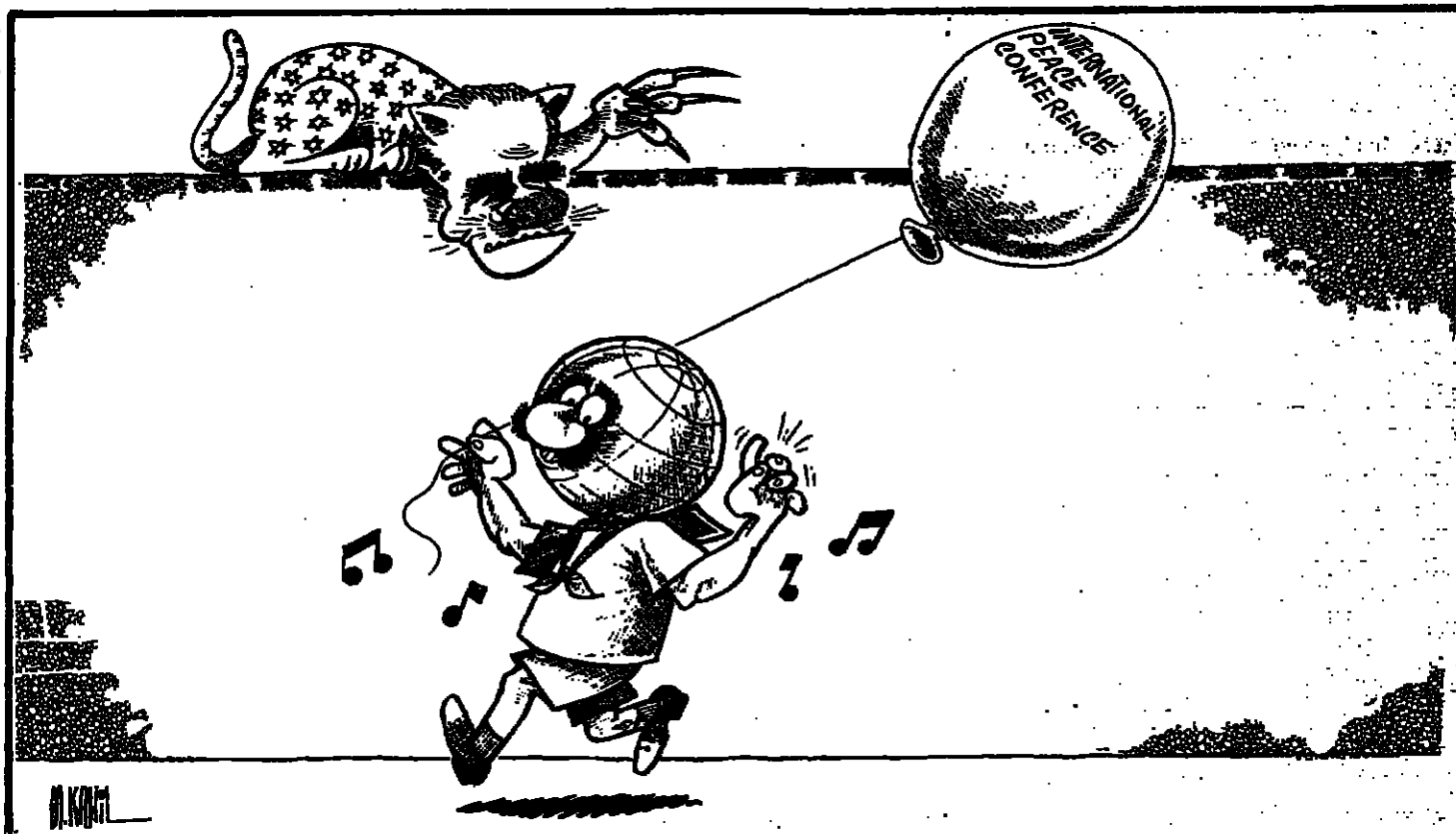
Bandaranaike spends her working week attending to party matters and makes frequent tours to the country to campaign.

Her leisure hours are spent cooking, pottering about in her garden and doting on her two grandchildren.

She still feels guilty that she did not spend enough time with her three children in her early years in politics.

"Being in politics meant neglecting my family," she said. "I have no regrets about entering politics but I could have spent more time with my children."

She sounded more bitter when she recalled that she was barred from contesting the 1982 presidential elections.



Fiji coup sends shockwaves across South Pacific

By Francis Daniel
 Reuters

SYDNEY — The coup in Fiji on Thursday has sent shockwaves across the South Pacific, whose beautiful palm-fringed islands have long enjoyed political tranquility.

Officials of some South Pacific nations told Reuters the military takeover in Fiji could threaten the stability of the whole region, which has Western democratic traditions.

The coup also renewed Western fears that Libya, which has been trying to gain influence in the area, could seek to use the Fijian crisis to cause mischief in the region, they said.

Vanuatu Prime Minister Walter Lini, in a statement on Friday, said the Fijian coup could have "undesirable implications in as far as stability of the region is concerned."

He called on the Fijian population to quickly return to parliamentary democracy "without undue influences from the outside."

The United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand have condemned the coup. The Soviet Union, which has been seeking a bigger role in the region, has maintained silence.

The coup, spearheaded by a young lieutenant colonel who abducted newly-elected Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra and his entire cabinet at gunpoint, has stunned the island nations scattered throughout the Pacific.

Regional government officials expressed dismay that former Fijian Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamesese Mara, who had provided able leadership to the 13-

member South Pacific Forum, had agreed to join the rebels and tear up the constitution he wrote 17 years ago.

His action could help entrench the new administration and throw the regional grouping in disarray only 15 days before it is due to hold a summit meeting at the

Western Samoan capital of Apia, the officials said.

The forum could discuss the question of recognition of Fiji's new leaders — an issue that would divide the island nations, the officials said.

Papua New Guinea sent troops to Vanuatu in May, 1980, to help

crush a rebel faction which had taken control of the island of Espiritu Santo.

But a government official in Papua New Guinea said the coup in Fiji was a "totally different scenario."

Australia and New Zealand have naval vessels in and around Fiji and defence sources in the two countries do not rule out the possibility of intervention.

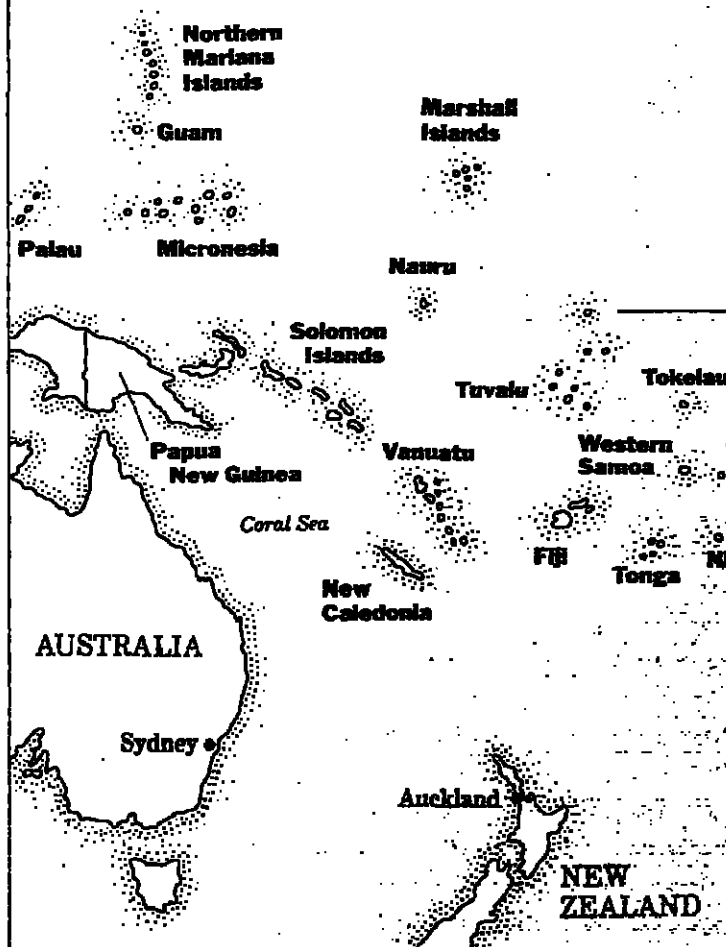
Western diplomats said such a move would cause deep anxiety throughout the South Pacific, whose islands won independence from colonial powers only two decades ago.

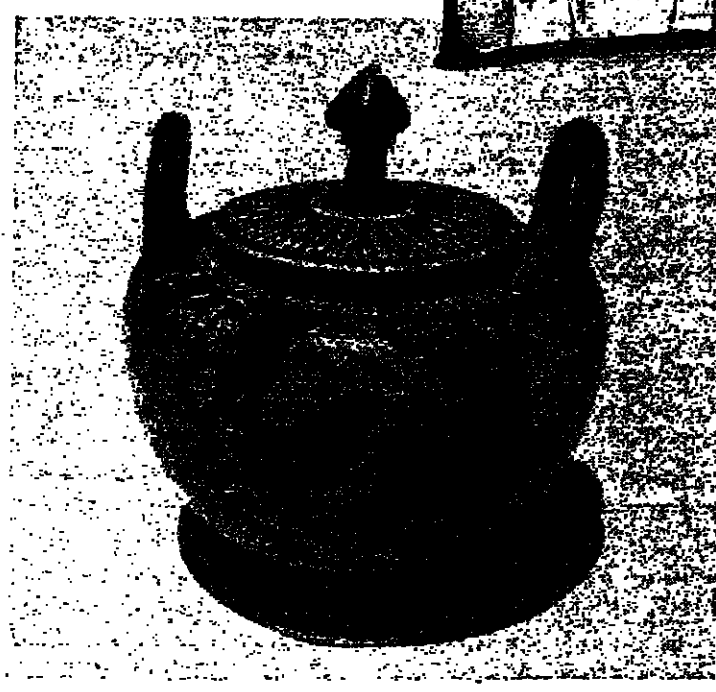
Defence analysts said the Fijian coup, which has so far been bloodless, was likely to discourage common regional defence ties. It could also give ideas to the armed forces in other nations, they added.

"In the longer term it means that Australia and New Zealand have problems strategically," an Australian defence official said. Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said on Friday there was no evidence of any external influence in the Fiji events.

But in a clear reference to possible Libyan intrusion, he said the coup had "come at a time when other parts of the Pacific are being destabilised."

Besides Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga have armed forces, while Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have paramilitary units. Vanuatu has come under severe Western criticism for establishing "front" links with Libya, which has pledged to support independence groups in the region, particularly in the French territory of New Caledonia.





Photos by Ben Vaughan IV

Among the works of art buried with a wealthy Greek woman near Metaponto, Italy, nearly 2,500 years ago were a bronze mirror, elaborately decorated with birds and flowers—symbols of Aphrodite, goddess of love—and a terra cotta vase showing Eros, god of love, chasing a rabbit. Archaeologists have recovered hundreds of such artifacts from tombs and ceramic deposits in an area of southern Italy that was colonized by Greece. The research is filling a large gap in the history of ancient Greeks who lived on the outskirts of cities.



A Greek woman about 30 years old was buried in this tomb at Pantanello, a necropolis near Metaponto, Italy, in about 430 B.C. Of 314 tombs uncovered on the site, this was the only one with red frescoes on its walls. The exquisite mirror and a vase buried with the woman were measures of her wealth.

Greece's farmer-colonists left rich legacy in Italy

By Donald J. Frederick
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — American archaeologists have recovered 230 skeletons and hundreds of priceless art treasures from the tombs of Greeks who colonized southern Italy 2,500 years ago. Rich soil drew the farming colonists to the southern Italian peninsula, where they founded new towns and took over old ones.

Discovered about 25 miles west of present-day Taranto near the site of the ancient Greek city of Metaponto, the artifacts include painted vases, engraved bronze mirrors, and a lyre—fashioned from a tortoise shell.

Seeds, grapes, art

In addition, after pumping out the reservoir and part of a spring associated with a sacred sanctuary at Pantanello, site of the cemetery that served the rural population outside Metaponto, the archaeological team found hundreds of seeds from barley, wheat, grapes, and a number of other crops.

"It was incredible," says Joseph C. Carter, a University of Texas archaeologist who has been directing a long-term study of the Metaponto region. "We even

found 2,300-year-old grapes with skins and all."

Many of the art objects date from the fifth century B.C., a period associated with the Greek statesman Pericles and the golden age of Athens. "We could fill a museum with what we've uncovered in the last few months," Carter says.

Details emerging from his research on the countryside and people outside Metaponto are filling a large gap in Greek history, because few scientists have ever undertaken a detailed look at the environs of classical Greek cities anywhere.

"It's hard to believe," Carter says, "but we now know more about the people who lived outside Metaponto than about the farmers who tilled fields near Athens."

There's no question that the Metapontine colonists enjoyed good art just as much as the folks back home. "Of the 2,000 vases we found, 60 or 70 are of the highest quality and would make prize possessions in any museum in the world," says Carter, whose work has been partially supported by the National Geographic Society.

Most of the objects found in 341 tombs and 45 deposits of ceramics will eventually be displayed in a building the Italian

government is erecting near the site.

Luck spared the artifacts from modern looters. An olive grove had been planted over the cemetery at Pantanello. But not long ago, the owners of the land decided to cut down the trees and plant more profitable crops.

Proliferating pots

"Pottery started coming out of the ground along with the uprooted trees," says Carter. "Fortunately our team was in the area, and we got permission from the local authorities to excavate the site."

The region's prosperity is reflected not only in the contents of the tombs but in the burial chambers themselves. Built with massive stone blocks, the largest burial cists weigh several tons and measure 8 to 10 feet long and 5 feet high.

Most of the large tombs look like big-covered boxes, but some have sloping roofs that give them the appearance of small buildings, Carter says.

More numerous are relatively modest tombs fashioned from tiles, and simple burials where the deceased were placed in unpretentious coffins of painted plaster.

"Some of the richest and most

interesting objects came from some of the humblest graves. We haven't yet figured out why," says Carter.

The graves of rich and poor alike indicate that disease was a menace to Metapontine society. Many skulls found in the tombs, particularly those dating from the first half of the fifth century B.C., show evidence of a form of anemia related to malaria.

It was a time when farmers along the area's rich valley bottoms were plagued by flooding and drainage problems. From the resulting pestilential swamps rose swarms of disease-bearing mosquitoes. "We have the best evidence yet found for the existence of malaria in the ancient world," Carter says.

Founded in the seventh century B.C. by settlers from the northern Peloponnese, Metaponto soon became a thriving city-state.

Goats, sheep, and cattle grazed fields carved from lush oak and pine forests. The fields turned golden with barley and wheat. Barley, the main source of wealth, was depicted on many of the colony's coins. Grape-laden vines produced export-quality wines.

Genetic research clues

Many of the seeds found at Pantanello, their DNA molecules

intact, offer challenging research possibilities. The DNA molecule stores the code that every cell uses to sustain and duplicate itself, and is crucial to the genetic programming of all living things.

Scientists studying the seeds may be able, by comparing genes of ancient and modern crops, to determine the kind of plant breeding that took place 25 centuries ago.

In a 16-square-mile area just two miles from the city, the

archaeologists found more than 500 farm sites, each averaging about 25 acres. Dominating the average farmstead was a square mud-brick dwelling of eight or nine rooms, with a tile roof. Some of the rooms probably housed the family livestock.

"At Metaponto's peak about 510 B.C., we figure that roughly 20,000 people lived in the city and another 20,000 lived in the surrounding 50,000 acres," Carter estimates.

Metaponto, Italy

BY the sixth century, the ancient Greek city of Metaponto — Metapontum to the Greeks and Metapontum to the Romans — had all but gone out of business. The chief culprit was the malarial climate on the north shore of the Gulf of Taranto, in the arch of the Italian boot. What once had been a thriving community slumped into oblivion for hundreds of years. Besides the Greek ruins, about all that remained were a few big 18th-century farmhouses. Metaponto and the farming areas around it came back to life after World War II. In the 1950s the old city became a planned town, and inexpensive

but attractive apartment buildings were erected. Today the population is about 1,000. The seaside town is built on the flat marine terraces left behind when the Ionian Sea receded to its present level 5,000 years ago. Rising north of Metaponto are infertile hills of blue clay.

Enclosing the town are two rivers, the Bradano on the east and the Basento on the west.

Tourism has increased greatly in recent years, drawing visitors from the more prosperous areas of central and northern Italy and other parts of Europe to the unspoiled Gulf of Taranto beaches — National Geographic News Service.

Rural business is not all a bed of roses

Some workers deep in the countryside of England can play football on the green during their lunch break. However, not everything is perfect down in the forest. Charles Batchelor reports on setting up business in the country.

LONDON — It took Georgina von Etdorf and her two partners three months to find the ideal building for their young textile design business. They finally lighted on a derelict long barn in the pretty-English village of Odstock, two miles south of Salisbury, in Wiltshire.

The restored barn combines an affordable rent with an upmarket "country" image which goes well with von Etdorf's hand-printed range of scarves, ties, dressing gowns and waistcoats. Its length provides ample space for the 60-foot print table on the ground floor while office, studio, steaming and ironing areas crowd together on the top floor. The first and second floors, with new floors, roof and windows, now houses a thriving business employing 13 people, and with expected sales of £400,000 (£672,000) in 1987. It has also made a small contribution to solving the problems of rural decline and the continued loss of jobs in farming.

Seven thousand farm jobs were lost in England last year and while Wiltshire's 9 per cent unemployment rate compares with 19 per cent in Cornwall and Durham, rural communities in the relatively prosperous southern counties are also under pressure.

"You might have a thatched cottage with wisteria round the door, but if you are poor and without a car in the country you are cut off from shops, the job-centre and the library," says Peter Curbsley, small industries adviser in Wiltshire for the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (CoSIRA).

The council, which is part of the Development Commission for Rural England, is attempting to reverse that decline by providing advice and financial aid to small firms setting up in rural areas.

Twenty-eight rural areas, including much of the West Country and the northern counties of England, have been designated as Rural Development Areas. They

receive special help in the form of a small factory building programme which last year took up £15 million, or more than half the commission's budget.

Financial aid is also given to repair derelict rural buildings such as schools, chapels and barns for use by small firms.

But equally important is the help and advice which is given by CoSIRA advisers on where to find premises, obtaining planning permission and on running a small business. CoSIRA also trains craftsmen in skills such as thatchery, forgework, dry stone-walling and agricultural machinery repair.

The government is increasing funding for the English Commission by 12 per cent to £27.8 million in 1987-88 which will allow CoSIRA to increase its marketing support scheme, extend the redundant building grants scheme to tourism projects and take on more part-time advisers.

Curbsley helped Georgina von Etdorf to find premises and also dealt with a problem she and her partners faced with the treatment of waste dyes.

But while a textile design partnership appears to reinforce the craft image of rural companies, only one in 10 of new companies setting up in the Wiltshire countryside has a craft bias.

The typical non-agricultural rural business is, in fact, an engineering company, according to the somewhat surprising results of a recent survey carried out by CoSIRA.

Advanced Precision Tools, a manufacturer of diamond-tipped cutting tools, fits the bill perfectly. Based in the former village school at Herriard, a village four miles south of Basingstoke, Hampshire, in southern England, APT has grown from its four founder-directors in 1961 to a total of 13 people, with turnover of £300,000 in the year just ended.

Dave Chad, in charge of design at APT, and three colleagues decided to set up on their own

when their previous employer, a large cutting-tool manufacturer, decided to move from Basingstoke to Gloucester.

They spent their first three years in a small shed in the nearby village of Lasham before remortgaging their homes to buy the disused village school for £100,000 in 1984.

For a team which had become used to working in a purely industrial environment, the Herriard school offers one of the main advantages of the rural life — a green and pleasant environment.

"The lads can play a game of football on the green at the back during their lunch-break," says Dudley Ayling, another of APT's founder-directors. "It's also nice to be able to look up from peering at a piece of work and see the country out of the window."

Costs also tend to be lower in the country though the expense of modifying farm buildings in keeping with local architectural traditions can be high.

"If we had gone into Basingstoke four years ago we would have been paying 26 a square foot," notes APT's Chad. "We could not have afforded it. Here we have the space and we can use the school playground as a car park."

For many companies, a rural location is essential for the type of business they are in. Gul Wetsuits, a private company which became part of the publicly-quoted Hawtin group in 1983, is based on an industrial estate in Bodmin, Cornwall, halfway between the north and southern coasts of the country in the extreme south-west of the country.

"The surfing industry started in Cornwall. That is why we are here," says Carey Brown, managing director. "It's ideal for testing equipment. We can hammer a wetsuit to death on the Atlantic coast and then try out yachting gear off the south coast."

Gul, which was started by Brown and an uncle in 1972, now employs nearly 90 people, has turnover of £3 million and claims to be number one in its field in Europe.

But life is not all roses for companies which opt for the country life. The first and biggest

problem they face is finding premises.

"We spend more than half our time and the commission more than half its money in creating premises but after 10 years the demand is still there," says Henry Clark, CoSIRA's head of information. "Sometimes we think we have built too many units, but after six months they have all been taken."

"If a City whizzkid offers a farmer £60,000 for a pile of rubbish the farmer won't sell it to us if I go along and offer him £20,000 to put it to industrial use," says Curbsley. "Even if the farmer has not got planning permission for houses he is prepared to wait

five years in the hope he will get approval." In the early 1980s, developers could claim 100 per cent tax relief on small rural workshops under the Industrial Buildings Allowance scheme but this was abolished two years ago.

Even if a company can find premises, housing for its workers in the south-east and other popular retirement areas can be prohibitively expensive.

"My biggest problem is the cost of accommodation," says Ray Bevan, managing director of Alfred Watercross, a 50-year-old Hampshire company which has recently increased its workforce from four to seven. "A house in this area costs £45,000 to

£50,000. A young manager could never afford that."

The housing shortage adds to the problem of recruiting suitable skilled staff. "There are not many similar companies in this area so it is difficult finding people with experience," says von Etdorf's Jonathan Docherty. "We train all our own people. That takes time and is a bit of a gamble until they have made it."

Distance from their markets can be a problem for some companies. Eddie Clunan, who with his wife runs Duddon Electronics from Coniston in Cumbria, says that visits to his customers have to be carefully organised.

— Financial Times feature.

Mitterrand honours his first love

By Paul Webster

PARIS — President Francois Mitterrand has awarded the Legion of Honour to his first love, Catherine Langeais, nearly 50 years after she broke his heart. Friends have often said that his love for Catherine, who was awarded the medal after 25 years as France's best-known television presenter, inspired the future President's often reckless wartime career, which paved the way to his political successes.

He met the small blonde girl, whose real name was Marie-Louise Terrasse, at a students' ball on the Left Bank in January, 1938, when she was 15 and he was 22. At the time she was preparing for her baccalaureat and the young Mitterrand — sent up from the provinces from a private Catholic school — was studying law and political science.

Just before being called up by the army, Mitterrand became engaged to Marie-Louise. While serving as a sergeant in the infantry in 1940, he was injured and captured. Twice he made daring escapes from German camps to rejoin his fiancée.

But after running away for a third time under fire and getting back to Paris he discovered that his love had dropped him for a Polish count whom she later divorced to marry one of the pioneers of French television, Mr. Pierre Sabbagh.

The broken-hearted sergeant sought consolation by setting up his own espionage network

among former PoWs. Resistance colleagues said that Mr. Mitterrand, then known as Captain Morland, often seemed to have a death wish, openly calling attention to himself in occupied Paris by ostentatiously smoking English cigarettes or moving about openly. He was once saved from a Gestapo trap by Left Bank friends who included the writers Marguerite Duras and Albert Camus.

But by then he had met another stunning young woman, Danielle Gouze, just 16, who was later decorated for her resistance work and whose family passion for traditional socialism was passed on to the conservative Catholic resistance hero whom she married in 1944.

But even though his former fiancée adopted a stage name the future President could hardly forget her. Apart from appearing in films, she presented several key television programmes, becoming the best known continuity announcer between 1950 and 1975.

Six months ago, the President decorated her husband with the Order of Merit.

Catherine Langeais said after the ceremony at the Elysee Palace that she could not understand why she had been given a medal but took it as a mark of the President's interest in television.

As for the personal side, she admitted that her "heart missed a beat" when the President, who is now 71, bent to kiss her cheeks after pinning on the medal — Le Monde.

Pocket-sized binder becomes synonymous with success

By Vanora Bennett

Reuter

LONDON — Filofax — a leather ringed binder holding everything from a diary to a restaurant guide and conversion tables — has become synonymous with success and a high-powered lifestyle.

The paperback-sized holder has become as indispensable as a £500 (£800) suit and an expensive German-made car for many media high-fliers and city whizz-kids.

The company which produces them is doing such good business that it went public in London last month, and owner David Collis expects to make £2.16 million (£3.49 million) from the flotation.

In the seven years since Collis bought Norman and Hill — the company that first manufactured the product — for £10,000 (£16,200), Filofax sales have soared from around £100,000 (£162,000) in 1980 to more than £6.7 million (£10.9 million) with only minimal advertising.

"Our sales have risen by something like a multiple of 20 since 1980," Collis said.

But one person who will not be cashing in is Grace Scurr, the woman who brought the idea to Britain and registered the brand name here during the 1920s.

The former shorthand typist, now 93, said recently she did not regret selling her 15 per cent stake in the company for £1,500 (£2,430) five years ago.

Filofax was born after Scurr persuaded her company, Norman and Hill, to manufacture the simple personal filing systems in Britain. She got her inspiration from seeing the company import simi-

lar systems from the United States and suggested they patented their own.

Scurr registered the brand name Filofax in 1930, when clergymen and army officers were the most frequent buyers.

The product, which is simple and cheap to make, and at £20 (£33) for the hundreds of extras available to slot inside. These include pages for diary, addresses, shopping lists, maps and conversion tables.

Outside investors have bought four million shares in Filofax at £1.20 (£1.93) a share and within four days of the public launch last month they were trading at £1.68 (£2.72).

As well as standard leather and vinyl folders, the company produces small numbers of crocodile-skin, reindeer-skin and even watersnake-skin Filofaxes for those with a taste for the exotic.

Crocodile skin is the most expensive at £590 (£955) and ostrich skin retails at around £350 (£567).

Two hundred reindeer-skin Filofaxes were made from cargo salvaged from a ship wrecked on December 11, 1786. They were put on sale exactly 200 years later to the day.

"In years to come, people will look back at Filofax as one of the great marketing phenomena of the 1980s," Collis told Reuters in an interview.

But even he does not fully understand why Filofax became a cult of the 80s.

"I bought it thinking it would be a nice little hobby. Perhaps I could expand its business sales. But there's no way you can say to yourself I think I'll start a cult," he said in a recent interview.

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Coventry clinches F.A. Cup at Wembley

LONDON (Agencies) — Coventry City beat Tottenham Hotspur 3-2 after extra time (halftime 1-2, 90 minutes 2-2) in the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup final on Saturday.

Coventry recovered from the shock of conceding a goal after little more than a minute to win the (F.A.) Cup in their first final appearance at Wembley.

The winning goal in the 3-2 extra-time triumph over the firm favourites Tottenham Hotspur, who had not lost in seven previous finals, was a personal nightmare for England defender Gary Mabbutt.

He deflected a cross from Coventry midfielder Lloyd McGrath past his goalkeeper Ray Clemence six minutes into the first half of extra time.

While there was only misery for Mabbutt, who had earlier given Tottenham a 2-1 lead, the goal was no more than Coventry deserved. Their never-say-die attitude twice brought them from behind in a good-natured game in which both sides were committed to attack.

The emphasis on attack meant that both defences were kept at full stretch but surprisingly it was the Coventry attacking trio of Cyrille Regis, Keith Houchen and winger Dave Bennett who carried the greater threat.

Bennett, scorer of Coventry's extra-time winner in the semifinal

against Leeds, cancelled out Clive Allen's second-minute goal — his 49th of the season for Tottenham — within seven minutes.

Mabbutt restored Tottenham's lead with a scrappy goal shortly before half-time but Coventry, chasing their first major trophy in the club's 104-year history, were not to be denied and equalised through Houchen, a player who reserves his best form for cup ties, in the 63rd minute.

A capacity crowd of 100,000 fans saw Mabbutt, who had a hand in one of Tottenham's goals, turn a centre from Coventry's Lloyd McGrath into his own net after six minutes of extra time.

The goal ended the London team's record of never being beaten in the final.

Going for a record eight cup final victories, Tottenham twice led through Clive Allen (two minutes) and a Brian Kilcline own goal in the 43rd.

But the side from central England twice levelled through Dave Bennett (11 minutes) and Keith Houchen (63) before Mabbutt's extra time goal allowed Kilcline to go up to collect the cup.

Tottenham's team of established internationals threatened at times to take control of the final with their smooth flowing play.

But Coventry's line-up of soccer comparatively unknown journeymen kept battling and had chances to have won by a greater margin.

Allen's 49th goal of the season arrived after only two minutes, when he headed home from a right wing centre by Chris Waddle.

But Coventry marked its first appearance at the home of English soccer by hitting back in the 11th minute.

Bennett beat Tottenham goalkeeper Ray Clemence to a loose ball and slotted it home from close range after the "spurs" defence failed to clear a left wing centre by Greg Downs.

After its equaliser, Coventry began to put pressure on the London side, without creating any clear cut chances.

Waddle, one of six England internationals on show in the Tottenham line-up, began to tease the left side of the Coventry defence with his probing runs and also tested city's goalkeeper, Steve Ogrizovic with some long range shots.

But it was Coventry who went closer to snatching the lead when Cyrille Regis sent Micki Gynn clear, only for Clemence to rescue his side with a stunning diving save.

That save looked even more important when Tottenham regained the lead three minutes before half time.

Huddle floated a free kick into the Coventry goalmouth and, with Ogrizovic hesitating, Mabbutt and Coventry defender Kilcline both went for the ball.

Both players struck out a leg and the ball appeared to strike the Coventry captain before bouncing into the net.

The goal took the steam out of Coventry's challenge and Tottenham was allowed to dominate the opening spell of the second half with its cultured flowing play.

Although Tottenham's five midfielders looked in control, they created few clear cut chances during the first 15 minutes of the second half and in the 63rd minute they paid the price when Coventry levelled a second time.

The ever dangerous Bennett centred from the right and Houchen produced a spectacular diving header to beat Clemence from six metres.

Jaite beats Nystrom in Italian Open semifinals

ROME (R) — Martin Jaite, bidding to become the third Argentine winner in seven years, Saturday extended South America's run of success by reaching the final of the Italian Open tennis championships.

Jaite, 22, beat Sweden's Joakim Nystrom 6-3, 6-4 in the first semifinal on the centre court at the Foro Italico and will meet John McEnroe or Mats Wilander in Sunday's final.

Jaite, hoping to emulate compatriots Guillermo Vilas and Jose-Luis Clerc, winners of this \$495,000 event in 1980 and 1981, won with surprising ease as the accuracy and consistency Nystrom showed in beating Ivan Lendl in the third round suddenly deserted him.

South America has dominated the Italian Open in the 1980s — Ecuador's Andres Gomez collecting two victories in the past four years — and the 11th-seeded Jaite is in the classic mould of clay-court players.

Holyfield knocks out Parkey

LAS VEGAS (R) — World Boxing Association (WBA) junior heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield has added the International Boxing Federation (IBF) cruiserweight crown to his collection by stopping Ricky Parkey in the third round.

Holyfield, unbeaten in 15 bouts, had no trouble with fellow-American Parkey — a boxer who elected to trade blows in mid-ring — and dropped him twice in the third round before referee Davey Pearl stopped the fight at two minutes 44 seconds into the round.

Parkey fared well in the first minute of the first round, hammering Holyfield with rights and lefts to the body. But his campaign was short-lived. Holyfield took control a minute later when he began to land his solid left jab.

Early in the third, two rights and a left-right combination to the head threw Parkey to the ropes, where a left-right shot to the head dropped him for a seven count.

Holyfield quickly forced Parkey to the ropes again before flattening him with a right for a six count. Parkey staggered around the ring and finally ended up in Holyfield's corner.

Italian beginner gives Graf a fight in W. German semifinals

WEST BERLIN (R) — Unseeded Italian Sandra Cecchini put a strangely jaded Steffi Graf through a stiff endurance test in the semifinals of the \$150,000 West German Open on Saturday.

The West German teenager laboured for two hours and 33 minutes to beat Cecchini 6-3, 6-7, 6-4 and reach the final.

"I wasn't at all happy with my game today," she said. "I made too many easy mistakes. I was rushing too fast — I didn't have any timing on my forehands."

"She is difficult to play. She always gets the ball back and doesn't make many mistakes. It just wasn't my day today."

Graf served for the match four times — and each time Cecchini broke her. Graf had four match points — and each time the Italian hung on.

But on the fifth she stretched for a forehand which ended in the net and a hugely relieved Graf changed her grim expression into a grin.

It was Graf's 31st consecutive win but one of her least impressive. Her forehand, one of the most feared weapons in women's tennis, was almost completely blunted.

Cecchini, whose only previous claim to fame was that she beat

Chris Evert in the Federation Cup last year, kept Graf on court for longer than her three previous opponents at the tournament put together.

Though Graf was not playing well, she led 6-3, 5-3, but Cecchini was the only person at West Berlin's Rot-Weiss club who did not accept she could not beat the brilliant West German and she refused to lie down.

She broke back for 5-5, dropped service and then broke back to earn a tiebreak which she won 7-2.

Like the true champion she is, Graf swiftly pulled herself together and opened a 5-1 lead in the final set but Cecchini broke her as she served for the match, pulled back from 0-4 on her own serve and then broke again to make it 5-4.

She saved one more match point on her own serve before finally succumbing to the inevitable.

"I feel great to have done so well against the world's number two," she said. "I tried to play on her backhand and wait for the mistakes."

"But I think she can play much better than that. She's great. She will win (the French Open) in Paris for sure."

Four-year dope tests on rowers all negative

ZURICH (R) — Doping tests in international rowing competitions and during training over the past four years have all proved negative, an official of the International Rowing Federation (IFRA) said Friday.

IFRA spokesman Denis Oswald said the most recent tests made last month involving rowers from 15 countries at an international training camp in Piediluco, Italy, also produced no evidence

of banned substances being used.

He said the results were very satisfying and had shown that properly trained athletes did not need to resort to body building or performance-improving drugs.

In 1983, the governing body of world rowing, which has a 65-nation membership, became the first international sports federation to extend doping controls to training events.

Mansell, Piquet earn top starting positions

SPA FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (AP) — Williams-Honda teammates Nigel Mansell of Britain and Nelson Piquet of Brazil earned top positions on the starting grid of the Belgian Grand Prix auto race by clocking the best times during the practice session Saturday.

Mansell, the current leader in the world standings and winner here last year, profited most from the dry conditions on the 6.9-kilometre Spa-Francorchamps circuit to win the session in 1 minute 52.026 seconds, ahead of Piquet and Brazilian Ayrton Senna. The race is scheduled for Sunday.

Two days of continuous rain stopped for most of the one-hour run, allowing the racers to go flat out around the wooded circuit in the hilly Ardennes region.

Piquet finished 1.39 seconds behind his teammate, but still edged rival Senna, on a Lotus-Honda, by 0.01 seconds.

Prost aims for top

World champion Alain Prost of France is bidding to become part of racing history this weekend when he seeks his 27th Formula One victory in the Belgian Grand Prix to equal the record of Britain's Jack Stewart.

Prost, the dominating force in Formula One this decade, faced more than human opposition as the sky poured rain Friday to push him back in ninth position on the provisional grid.

But typically, the master tactician was confident enough in his McLaren tag car to know that finishing 4.730 seconds behind Austrian Gerhard Berger's top time of 2 minutes 06.216 seconds on Friday's practice session would have little effect on Sunday's result.

The downpours were interspersed with brilliant sunshine during the one-hour practice session on the 6.94-kilometre track

and Prost said afterwards: "You really don't know what you have to do in this weather."

"I did not want to take too many chances," he added, repeating a credo that has marked his 7-year-old Formula One career.

He predicted his car would give him the edge Sunday.

But while Prost opted for caution to safeguard his bid to make history, his challengers braved the freak weather conditions to vie for provisional pole position.

"It was crazy," Brazil's Nelson Piquet said of the weather. "You had to be (on the course) at the right time, on the right tires, and with the right fuel to do a good time," he said.

Piquet partly succeeded, clocking the fourth fastest time. His Williams-Honda teammate Nigel Mansell of Britain, who won here last year and was the winner of the May 3 San Marino Grand Prix, came in second overall.

Mansell, the current leader in the world standings and Prost's closest challenger last year, finished 0.749 seconds outside Berger's time and also felt frustrated by the sudden changes in the weather. "You have got to pick the right moment," he said.

His car was in the pits during a brief improvement in the weather which gave Berger and his Ferrari a good ride in the best conditions of the day. "It only took two or three minutes but in that time I lost pole position because the track was quick," Mansell said.

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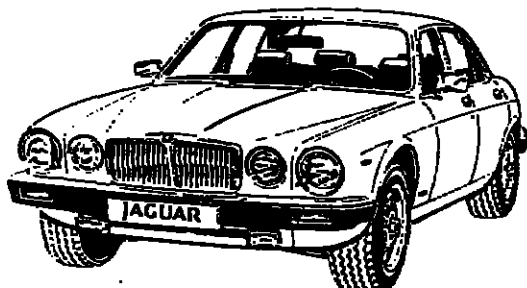
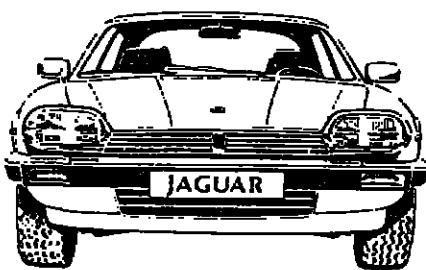
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AMANI UNDER RAINBOW

Performances: 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 7:45

New Fijian leader will outlaw ethnic dominance in government

SUVA (Agencies) — Fiji's rebel military rulers will introduce a constitution preventing the ethnic Indian community from dominating future governments, rebels leader Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka said Saturday.

Col. Rabuka told a news conference he staged Thursday's coup against an Indian-dominated coalition government in the interests of indigenous Fijians and their culture.

Speaking as armed troops patrolled Suva, the capital, searching pedestrians, Col. Rabuka said the constitution might be introduced as early as Monday and that a referendum might then be held to approve it and elections held soon afterwards.

The 38-year-old officer said he was prepared to make Fiji a republic if the governor general, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, refused to recognise the new constitution.

Sources close to Ganilau, appointed by Britain's Queen Elizabeth as head of state, said

earlier the queen had called on him to stand firm against the rebels. There has been no comment from London on the report.

Col. Rabuka said his troop would repel any armed intervention by outside countries and he would deal swiftly with any civil disobedience by Indians, who closed shops Saturday in rural Fiji in protest against the coup.

Col. Rabuka, who installed a 16-strong council of ministers Friday, did not give details of how the constitution would prevent Indians from holding the majority of parliamentary seats in any future ruling party.

Sources close to the Alliance Party, which forms the backbone of Col. Rabuka's council, told Reuters it was possible that 40 of

parliament's 52 seats would be reserved for indigenous Fijians, six for Indians and six for other races, including Europeans and Chinese.

Nearly 49 per cent of the country's population are Indians. They dominate the economy and are slightly more numerous than the indigenous, mainly Melanesian, Fijians.

Indians held 19 of 28 parliamentary seats in the deposed coalition of Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra, an indigenous Fijian, elected in a general election four weeks ago.

His victory ended 17 years of rule by the indigenous Fijian-dominated Alliance following independence from Britain.

Existing law gives certain land ownership rights to the indigenous community. The Indian community is descended from Indian workers brought over last century by Fiji's British colonial rulers.

Col. Rabuka said he ordered the coup to preempt violence

planned by militant indigenous groups, including a section which supports the Alliance Party.

"The cabinet was dominated by the Indians, and Fijian fears of their land rights being taken away caused the unrest," Col. Rabuka said.

Former Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who has taken the foreign policy portfolio in the new administration, had no knowledge that a coup was planned, Rabuka said.

Rabuka said he disagreed with Bavadra's non-nuclear stand and policy of non-alignment.

"I believe (he) was heading towards pushing Fiji away from its traditional (Western) allies," he said.

He urged foreign countries to recognise his administration and said tourists were welcome to visit Fiji. Asked how he could invite them when armed soldiers were roaming the streets and searching bags and cameras, he said: "Dozens of tourists still go to Lebanon."

India moves to halt air raids on Jaffna

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — India has urged the government to halt air attacks on the rebel-dominated Jaffna peninsula to guard against civil casualties, a senior government official said Saturday.

India's chief diplomat in Sri Lanka, High Commissioner J.N. Dixit, conveyed the request Friday night to Foreign Minister Lalith Atulathumudali, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The official said Mr. Dixit told the two government ministers that continued bombing and strafing would cause civilian casualties and hamper any movement toward peace with Tamil militants.

Sri Lankan officials have said they expect some civilian casualties from its air attacks on the northern peninsula because rebel bases are located among the general population.

India, which has been trying to mediate an end to the Tamil civil war, has frequently complained of civilian casualties from military

attacks on the Jaffna peninsula, which has a population of about 750,000.

The peninsula is under virtual control of Tamil rebels fighting for an independent homeland for their minority people. A campaign of air attacks against the area began last month after a car bomb blamed on Tamil rebels killed up to 180 people in Colombo.

India's request for an end to the bombing and strafing comes amid reports by Tamil travellers from Jaffna, about 300 kilometres north of Colombo, that thousands of government troops were being moved into the area.

The travellers, who asked that their names not be used for their safety, said they feared a military offensive was planned against the peninsula.

But Tilak Ratnakara, chairman of the government media centre, denied any offensive was planned and said additional troops were being moved into the region to defend against expected rebel attacks.

COLUMNS 768

Contestants preparing for pageant

SINGAPORE (AP) — For the past 10 days, 68 women from all over the world have been having their pictures taken in swim suits at swimming pools and Botanical Gardens in preparation for the Miss Universe pageant on May 27. Japan's Miss Hiroe Namba, 23, says she enjoys participating with women representing so many different cultures. Miss Michelle Royer, 21, here as Miss USA, says "I am going to look at the audience, and judges and forget the cameras with red lights." The Singapore Tourists Promotion Board is spending about \$3 million to promote the show to attract tourists from potential audiences around the world. Miss Barbara Palacios Teyte, 22, an advertising executive from Caracas, Venezuela, is the current Miss Universe. She was crowned on July 21 in Panama City.

Man still paid taxes 13 years after death

CHATEAUXROUX, France (R) — A retired French army officer who died 13 years ago continued to draw his pension and pay taxes from beyond the grave, and even appeared in France's last population census, police said. They said the skeleton of the pensioner, identified only as "monsieur mariage" was found at his home earlier this week by firemen called to remove a bees' nest after a neighbour's complaint. Taxes were deducted routinely from his pension, which was paid automatically into his post office account, police said, adding they were holding an investigation into the matter.

Kuwait treating Arab AIDS victim

KUWAIT (R) — A Gulf Arab citizen is being treated in Kuwait for the killer disease AIDS, a local newspaper said Saturday. Al Qabas said a citizen of one of the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, arrived in the emirate for treatment. Kuwait officials said earlier this week that the country was free of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

U.S. wants AIDS testing for immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 500,000 or so immigrants applying for permanent residence in the United States each year would be tested for the AIDS virus under a Public Health Service recommendation. Such a requirement, if adopted, would not apply to tourists or visitors, nor be used to deny a temporary visa to a foreign citizen seeking treatment for AIDS. Nonetheless, the recommendation goes beyond previous government proposals on how to fit AIDS into existing immigration law that cites infection with a "dangerous contagious disease" as grounds for denying permanent status. A proposal considered in 1986, but never put in place, would have barred immigrants with AIDS. Public Health Service spokesman Jim Brown said agency officials now feel they have no choice under the immigration law but to certify infection with the AIDS virus as a contagious disease. "We believe this is necessary because anyone infected... is assumed to be capable of transmitting the virus," said a memo from Robert E. Windom, assistant secretary for health in the Department of Health and Human Services, to HHS Secretary Otis R. Bowen. While not everyone infected with the AIDS virus will necessarily develop the disease itself, medical authorities are convinced anyone with the virus can pass it to others. AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, is a fatal disease that attacks the body's immune system, leaving it prey to cancers, pneumonia and other diseases.

Stepfather gets life for child murder

LONDON (R) — A 24-year-old man was sentenced to life imprisonment by a London Court for torturing and murdering his four-year-old stepdaughter. Jurors at the Old Bailey, London's central criminal court, heard how Nigel Hall had beaten, punched and burned Kimberly Carlie for months before she died. Hall had pleaded not guilty to murder, grievous bodily harm, assault and cruelty. He was found guilty of all charges. The child's mother, 27-year-old Pauline Carlie, was sentenced to 12 years in prison for assault, cruelty and grievous bodily harm to Kimberly. She also pleaded not guilty. "In the sordid annals of child abuse your crimes are uniquely wicked," Justice John Steyn told the couple. Hall wept and Carlie shook uncontrollably as the hushed courtroom heard the verdicts. The jury was told the child died from cigarette burns to her spine and hips. During the last eight months of her life she was beaten, kicked, punched, branded, scalded and burned. In December the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children published a report estimating that between three and four children in Britain die every week as a result of parental cruelty or neglect.

Bees released in truck accident

CORDELE, Georgia (AP) — A truck carrying 800 boxes of honey bees overturned on a highway and released about 40 million bees. An overpass near where the accident occurred Thursday night was covered with bees, said Crisp county fire chief Guy Jones. "They were flying around the bridge and a lot of them were sitting on the bridge." The unidentified truck driver was treated at a hospital and released, and several officers were stung by bees, but there were no serious injuries, Jones said. The truck was taking the bees from Florida to the Dakotas, where they were to be used to aid pollination of clover and wheat fields, when it overturned. Authorities closed the interstate and squirted the bees with water throughout the night. Water was used because it makes the bees' wings too wet for flight, encouraging them to cling to the surface or hover in groups, said local beekeeper William Findley.

Aide sacked over Lake Baikal pollution

MOSCOW (R) — A deputy minister of the Soviet timber, pulp and paper processing industry has been sacked for not taking proper measures to stop pollution in Lake Baikal in Siberia, the Communist Party daily Pravda has said. Pravda said the party Central Committee had dismissed Deputy Minister Gennady Pronin and reprimanded dozens of officials at other ministries. The Soviet leadership has in recent years expressed concern about the pollution of Baikal, which contains about 20 per cent of the world's fresh water, by pulp and paper factories and has repeatedly called for efficient clean-up measures.

837 Soviet judges found incompetent

MOSCOW (R) — Fourteen Soviet judges were dismissed from the legal profession, 76 were moved from their posts and 837 were found administratively liable for incompetence last year, Soviet Justice Minister Boris Kravtsov has said. In an interview with the Communist Party newspaper Pravda, Mr. Kravtsov said it was time to ensure that legal workers who could not withstand "pressure from outside" were banned from the courts. He continued following calls by the Communist Party leadership for a crackdown on abuse in the country's police force and judiciary. The article indicated that Soviet citizens had been imprisoned or even executed for crimes they did not commit. Kravtsov said demands on judges were increasing and many were failing to meet them. He said measures had been prepared to increase the powers of judicial organs to dismiss officials who performed badly. Elections for new judges from leading attorneys, legal advisers and other senior officials would take place on June 21, while elections of lay assessors were already under way. Under the present legal system, two lay assessors sit with a professional judge and in theory should play an equal role in reaching a verdict. In practice, assessors often bow to the knowledge and experience of the judge. A new law is being prepared to strengthen legal status of Soviet citizens and public suggestions are being considered to increase the number of lay assessors or even institute a full jury.

Taiwan may lift martial law in June

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Premier Yu Kuo-Hwa told visiting U.S. journalists the government may lift its 38-year-old martial law in June to meet public demands for democracy, the government reported Saturday.

Mr. Yu said President Chiang Ching-Kuo decided to lift martial law last year because he "realised that the nation was ripe for further democratisation."

"It wasn't pressure that caused President Chiang to initiate the reform process. Rather, it was the weight of progress," the government information office quoted Mr. Yu as saying Friday. Mr. Yu said Taiwan has "matured enough to handle the added responsibilities of democratic politics" with the emergence of a strong middle class and a more educated public.

"We have taught our children all alone the ideals of democracy. Now they have grown up, and their expectations must be met," Mr. Yu told 16 members from the American National Conference of Editorial Writers. Martial law was imposed in 1949 when the Nationalists moved to this island after losing a civil war to the Communists on the Chinese mainland.

Military pledges support to Aquino

MANILA (R) — Senior military officers pledged support to Philippine President Corazon Aquino Saturday as opposition leaders threatened to launch street protests against alleged government cheating in the May 11 election.

They told a news conference the 150,000-strong armed forces, on full alert since the vote, have been ordered not to join demonstrations or any campaign to destabilise the government.

"It is generally perceived right now that the military is completely backing the Cory (Aquino) government," Deputy Armed Forces Chief Major-General Eduardo Ermita said.

Mrs. Aquino, reacting to charges that the election was shot through with fraud and other irregularities, said she would crack down hard on government officials who might be involved. "Present any proof and if any local mayor or provincial governor... is found guilty of any wrongdoing, I would be the first person to make sure that particular person is penalised. Nobody is above the law," Mrs. Aquino told reporters.

She denied she ordered cheating in the polls, adding: "At this point in my life, I think it is too late for me to learn how to cheat... I will be the last person to resort to foul means."

An unofficial count of about 50 per cent of the 26 million votes cast showed Mrs. Aquino's candidates making a 23-1 sweep of the 24 senate seats with a comfortable majority of the 200 seats in the lower house.

Opposition candidates took a slight lead in the official count of partial returns, which started last Thursday. It was the first election since Ferdinand Marcos abolished the two-house congress when he declared martial law in 1972. Marcos was overthrown last February by a civilian-backed military revolt that installed Mrs. Aquino president.

Gen. Ermita denied reports that the military was not supporting the Aquino administration because voting results in the camps favoured some candidates from the opposition Grand Alliance for Democracy.

WHO approves budget and AIDS resolution

GENEVA (AP) — Delegates from the 166-nation World Health Organisation (WHO) ended their annual conference after approving the 1988-89 budget and declaring overwhelming support for WHO's global strategy to combat AIDS.

Approval of the \$634-million budget followed a statement by WHO Director-General Halldan Mahler that measures would be taken to cut that figure by \$25 million.

Soviets circumventing U.N. cuts — Senator

WASHINGTON — A U.S. senator said the Soviet Union was trying to circumvent a forced reduction of Soviet personnel at its United Nations mission by putting new people to work on the overall U.N. payroll.

Senator Robert Kasten told the Senate he had learned that U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has told the State Department that he plans to permit additional Soviet Bloc personnel to go on the U.N. secretariat payroll, despite a hiring freeze.

Last year, under pressure from

Atlas rocket carries U.S. spy satellite into space

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, California (AP) — An Atlas rocket roared into orbit carrying classified cargo that space experts said probably was a package of navy ocean surveillance satellites.

The Friday 8:45 a.m. (1545 GMT) blastoff occurred at Space Launch Complex 3 of the Western Space and Missile Centre here, the air force said. It declined to disclose what the rocket carried.

"All I know is it's a classified payload," Air Force Sgt. Virgil

Short said. "There's probably a 95 per cent chance that it's a White Cloud navy electronic intelligence satellite" package, said John Pike, space policy specialist for the private Federation of American Scientists in Washington D.C. "I'd heard that it was going to happen."

White Cloud basically is "a big radio receiver, and it enables the navy to keep track of the Soviet fleet by locating the radar and radio transmissions of their (surface ships)," but not submarines, Pike said.

Actress Rita Hayworth dies after long illness

NEW YORK (R) — Rita Hayworth, the Hollywood love goddess who became the pin-up queen of World War II, has died at age 68, her last years spent as a recluse suffering from Alzheimer's Disease.

Since 1980, Ms. Hayworth has been cared for by her daughter Yasmine Khan, who gave up a singing career to nurse her mother.

In the latter years of her life, the woman who had lived a fairy-tale existence was unable to remember her Hollywood glory days or even express her thoughts due to Alzheimer's, a degenerative and incurable disease that attacks the brain.

In a brief statement, Yasmine Khan said her mother would be buried in Los Angeles on Monday.

President Reagan, in a statement released by the White House, called Ms. Hayworth "one of our country's most beloved stars."

"Nancy and I are saddened by Rita's death," Mr. Reagan said. "She was a friend whom we will miss. We extend our deep sympathy to her family."

Ms. Hayworth, who died Thursday night at her daughter's home, was the pin-up queen of World War II. A photograph of her in a black lace nightgown was one of the most sought-after armed forces' pin-ups.

She spent millions of dollars and married five times, including a glamorous wedding to Playmate Prince Aly Khan, that made front page headlines



around the world.

Ms. Hayworth was born Margarita Cansino in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Oct. 7, 1919 — "born a brunette to a Ziegfeld Follies chorus girl and a Spanish stage dancer." She signed a 14-year contract with Columbia Studios, which changed her name to Rita Hayworth and ordered her to dye her hair red, which became a Hayworth trademark.

Her first real success came as a femme fatale in Only Angels Have Wings in 1939.

In the 1940s she became one of Hollywood's top stars with a series of musicals.

After the war the star turned to dramatic parts and landed her most famous role, in Gilda with Glenn Ford, in which she played an adventuresome and wore clinging black satin dress and elbow length gloves.

Gilda was such a hit that she made four more films with Ford — the Lady in Question, the Lady From Shanghai, the Loves of Carmen and Affair in Trinidad.

Nicaragua takes reporters to captured contra camp

LAS AMAKAS, Nicaragua (R) — Nicaragua's military commanders, eager to prove that they have indeed overrun an important rebel camp, have taken reporters there to witness the evidence of their victory.

The U.S.-backed rebels, known as contras, had denied that the Las Amakas Camp, a key base 250 kilometres north east of Managua in Jinotega province and eight kilometres from the border with Honduras, had been occupied by government troops.

But when journalists landed at the camp it was evident that government troops were in control. Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Salvatierra displayed the bloated, bullet-riddled corpses of two contra soldiers at the entrance to the camp, on the shore of the murky Amaka River.

Salvatierra said the rebels were gunned down by government troops when they returned to the base earlier this week after a foray in the northern Nicaraguan jungle.

"They came back to get supplies and we surprised them all right," he said.

The army push against the rebel camp began on April 25 with the Sandinista army's biggest airborne operation ever against the contras, and ended with a three-day battle last Tuesday.

The trip by journalists was aimed at undermining U.S. news reports that the rebels had gained a foothold in the north following U.S. congressional approval of \$100 million in aid to the contras last year, the army said.

"They were saying they had a liberated zone under their control," Salvatierra said.

Known by the rebels as "starbase," the camp set up here was to have funnelled arms and supplies by boat to a force of 800 rebels fighting deeper inside the country, the government said.

It was one of a series of camps set up in this remote jungle region to help ease resupply operations to the rebels, currently depend on aerial supply.

U.S. Marine guard to be tried for espionage

WASHINGTON (R) — A former Marine guard involved in the sex-for-secrets scandal at the U.S. embassy in Moscow is to be court-martialed for espionage, the Defence Department has said.

But the main charge against Sergeant Clayton Lonetree — that he allowed Soviet KGB security agents into sensitive areas of the U.S. embassy in Moscow while stationed there in 1985 — has been dropped, the Pentagon said.

It said Lieutenant-General Frank Petersen, commanding general of the Marine base in Quantico, Virginia, had ruled that accusation "consists principally of hearsay which is not admissible at trial."

The general determined that Lonetree, 25, would be charged with other counts of espionage, conspiracy to commit espionage, and wrongful disclosure of the identities of U.S. intelligence agents, the Pentagon statement said.

"The case of Sergeant Clayton Lonetree has been referred to a general court-martial," the statement said.

The maximum penalty was life in prison and the tentative trial date was July 15, 1987, the statement said.

Former Marine Moscow embassy guard Corporal Arnold Bracy, 21, is also being held on espionage charges.

Pentagon officials told reporters last March that Bracy had implicated Lonetree in the scheme to allow KGB agents into the embassy but Bracy's attorney later said his client had retracted that statement.

The two Marines, and two other former guards being held on related charges.

Sergeant John Weirick, 26, is being questioned on suspicion of espionage while serving at the Leningrad consulate in 1981 and 1982.

The scandal has spread to U.S. embassies in Eastern Europe, prompting major Pentagon and State Department probes of their security.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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C IS FOR COUNTING

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 4
♥ K Q 8
♦ A 7 5
♣ A Q 10 3

WEST EAST
♠ 9 3 ♠ 10 7 6 2
♥ 10 7 ♥ 9 6 4 3 2
♦ 8 6 4 3 ♦ 8 2
♣ J 7 6 2 ♣ 5

SOUTH
♠ K J 5
♥ A 5
♦ K Q 10
♣ K 8 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 7 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

Counting is the secret on more bridge hands than you might imagine. On some, you have to count the points to determine the location of a particular card. On others, you need to count out the distribution to discover which defender has length or shortness in a specific suit.

A third aspect of counting came up in the auction. North added his 21 points to his partner's an-

nounced 16 minimum and realized there was enough strength present for a grand slam even if South had opened a dead minimum no trump. So he got there by the direct method.

West led a diamond and, at first glance, you might wonder what this column is all about — there seem to be 13 tricks on top. That is so, unless clubs break 4-1. Therefore, correct technique is not to touch the key suit until you have learned as much as possible about the hand.

Therefore you cash your three spades and three hearts, and you find out that West started with only two cards in each suit. Next, you clear your last two diamonds, and East discards on the last of these. Thus East held only two diamonds and West five. Ergo, you have a complete count of the hand.

West started with a 2-2-5-4 distribution, and East 5-5-2-1. You can now claim your grand slam. Cash the king of clubs in case East's singleton is the jack. If that knave fails to appear, continue with a club to the 10. You know the finesse is going to win, and the grand slam rolls home.